It's back to square one in Nida Blanca probe

STORY ON PAGE A2

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'Iwas paputok' launched

By A. Nocum

THE ECONOMIC crunch has a positive side after all.

With Filipinos having less money to spend on nonessen-

IWAS/ A20

TIPID NA, 'DI PA KAYO MAPUPU-TUKAN!

MONUMENT to Andres Bonifacio in Balintawak is spruced up for today's celebration of Heroes Day but tarnished by the "Hope of the Fatherland" like 11-year-old Jun-Jun Ara getting a high from sniffing rugby.

DENNIS SABANGAN

PR man brokers P50-B coco deal

Dante Ang: Thank Danding for this

By Armand Nocum and Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's private publicist yesterday disclosed that he helped forge a proposed "compromise settlement" of the controversial coconut levy funds now estimated at P130 billion.

Dante Ang, who described himself as a "referee" in the deal, said that Ms Macapagal would not "earn a centavo" from the settlement, contrary to allegations that she would get P20 billion in commission.

He said the deal was signed on Sept. 27 in Davao City by more than 20 farmers' organizations, by Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat, head of the Philippine Coconut Producers' Federation (Cocofed), and by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

It was the first time that someone close to the Palace admitted a deal had been signed in the midst of intense speculations of a secret settlement on the fate of the multibillion funds.

It was not clear why Ang, a longtime public relations practitioner, was involved in the coco levy settlement.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Ang was not representing the Office of the President or any agency of the government in the talks on the compromise settlement.

The proposed settlement seeks to put at least P50 billion in Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) into a "perpetual trust fund" with the interest going to coconut farmers and the coconut industry, according to Ang.

"The agreement is to free it from sequestration and monetize it to earn interest for farmers and the coconut industry," Ang told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

The deal is subject to the approval of the President, and later by the Presidential Com-

PR/ A20

HEROES names are added on Thursday to the Wall of Remembrance at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City. Renato Constantino II (above) traces the name of his namesake and grandfather, the nationalist writer. Maribel Ongpin (below) passes on to her granddaughter heroic lessons from her husband, Jaime Ongpin. JOAN BONDOC

138TH BIRTHDAY

From one hero to the other

Editor's Note: Why is Jose Rizal the national hero, and not Andres Bonifacio? This has been hotly debated among Filipino historians for decades. But the following excerpts from the unpublished book, Rizal: the Real Brains of the Revolution, will show Bonifacio himself might well give Rizal the honors. No question about it.

By Juanito E. Royeca

ANDRES Bonifacio was the first Filipino national leader to encourage and promote Jose Rizal as the country's national hero.

Bonifacio had read Rizal's novels, "Noli Me Tangere (Touch Me Not)" and "El Filibusterismo (The Subversive)" and essays in the Filipino reformists' periodical, "La Solidaridad (The Solidarity)." He was aware of Rizal's place among the nationalist circles of Filipinos as the leading patriot of their time. When Rizal founded "La Liga Filipina (The Philippine League)"

FROM/ A4

Asiaweek mag closes down after 26 years

HONG KONG—In the end, passion wasn't enough.

Adding to the gloom in Hong Kong's battered media industry, Time Inc. yesterday announced it was closing down its English-language weekly Asiaweek and laying off all 80 members of its staff.

Asiaweek president Peter Brack said the financial fallout from the Sept. 11 terror attacks had aggravated an already brutal advertising slump, forcing the closure of the Hong Kong-based business and political weekly.

Brack said the issue of Asiaweek released on Thursday would be the last, leaving the region with just one big weekly, the Far Eastern Economic Review.

Founded in 1975, the longtime news weekly in Asia was re-designed and re-launched in May as a business publication with a circulation of 120,000.

ASIAWEEK/ A4

Palace to strip Marcelo of Philcomsat seat

By Carlito Pablo and Philip Tubeza

THE WOES of businessman Pacifico "Pic" Marcelo III, who accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of trying to takeover his telecommunications company, are far from over.

Malacañang yesterday said Marcelo faced ouster as member of the board of directors of the government-sequestered Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat).

As if this was not enough, Manila Judge Romulo Lopez denied Marcelo's petition to nullify a mission order that Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo had issued "inviting" the businessman for questioning on his alleged American citizenship.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is also investigating the businessman for allegedly giving false testimonies, for perjury and for violating anti-dummy laws.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Marcelo was a nominee of then President Joseph Estrada to the Philcomsat board, a posi-

PALACE/ A19

Irate Zambo folk hack dead Moro reb

By Julie S. Alipala, Rolly A. San Juan and Martin P. Marfil

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Angry residents of Barangay Cabatangan yesterday cornered and hacked to death a member of the rebel group that on Tuesday took hostage more than 100 civilians.

The slain member of the Moro National Liberation Front, identified as Hahasab Akrab, was among the more than 30 followers of Nur Misuari who remained at the Cabatangan Complex after their comrades were given safe passage out of the area.

In Manila, Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Armed Forces' Southern Command, said five other rebels were killed in a clash between soldiers and 30-40 rebels that erupted in the outskirts of the Cabatangan Complex.

Cimatu said the troops incurred no casualties, and seized a machine gun and ammunition from the rebels.

He also said, "charges will be filed" against all the rebels, including those given safe passage. "We will pursue them once warrants of arrest are issued," he said.

Earlier, reports said that the remaining rebels held hostage at least 10 residents when they reached Barangay Pasonanca. But later it was found that the supposed hostages were angry residents who stalked the rebels.

Police said the rebels apparently went into hiding when their comrades led by Misuari nephew Julhambrie Misuari were marching out of the Lupong Tagapagpaganap ng Pook compound on Wednesday afternoon, but that the military's clearing operations early yesterday flushed them out.

Supt. Mario Yanga, Zamboanga City police chief, told the Inquirer that they would still determine whether the residents were actually

IRATE/ A20

'OIC could intervene on Misuari's behalf'

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE GOVERNMENT should not be surprised if the OIC (Organization of Islamic Conference) intervenes in Misuari's behalf, according to Lanao del Norte Representative Abdullah Dimaporo.

"That is expected of the OIC because (it) recognizes him (as the leader of the MNLF)," Dimaporo said.

He noted that President Macapagal's initial reaction to news of Misuari's arrest was to have him immediately deported to Manila, but later changed this position and said she preferred that Malaysia take first crack at him.

"That was a very good face-saving scheme," Dimaporo said.

The renegade Moro leader is like

OIC/ A20

Second FRONT PAGE

Ang labo ng Script!

Calimlim bows out of military

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

LT. Gen. Jose Calimlim yesterday retired from the service as vice chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

However, hints were dropped that he might soon be called back into public service.

In her speech, President Macapagal-Arroyo said Calimlim's retirement was merely a transition.

"His brand of quiet leadership would be missed in the AFP but I'm sure that you will hear about Joey Calimlim very soon once again," Ms Macapagal said.

For his part, Calimlim said in a talk with defense reporters that Ms Macapagal had asked him what he wanted.

"She asked me a while ago what position I want... (no position was mentioned) but we'll talk about it later," Calimlim, who was replaced by Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camilling as the AFP vice chief of staff, said.

That might come soon, he said, as there would be a dinner party in Malacañang one of these days.

The testimonial parade for Calimlim, who also served Presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada, was well-attended by politicians, including Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, and military men.

It was also the first time that a sitting president attended a testimonial parade for the retirement of a vice chief of staff.

But his former bosses, Ramos and Estrada, detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, were not present.

Calimlim was once considered as one of the most powerful men in the country as he headed the Presidential Security Group, the Intelligence Service of the AFP and the J-2, all at one time.

Nida Blanca: Back to PNP, back to square 1

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC
AND CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

"BACK to square one."

This is where the probe into the tragic killing of actress Nida Blanca on Nov. 7 is right now, according to Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño.

Zuño approved a Department of Justice resolution remanding the case to the Philippine National Police for "further investigation" and dropping the charges of parricide and murder against Blanca's widower, Rod Lauren Strunk, Philip Medel Jr. and Mike Martinez.

The four-page resolution was penned by state prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco and prosecution attorney Irwin Maraya and recommended for approval by assistant chief state prosecutor Leonardo Guiyab Jr.

"Wherefore, premises considered and in the interest of justice and fair play, subject complaint is hereby referred back to the PNP for further investigation," the resolution said.

It added that this was done without prejudice to another investigation involving the three respondents or the Blanca murder case as a whole.

"It's as good as a dismissal," Zuño said of the resolution, "because as far as the DOJ is concerned, Strunk, Medel and Martinez are no longer respondents. If the case is refiled it will be in another docket."

Zuño then said the DOJ investigation into the Blanca murder was "back to square one."

A ranking justice official, however, said the DOJ should not have remanded the case to the PNP.

"Going by the rules, the DOJ should have used the word 'dismissal' outright since there was no motion from the PNP for further investigation," the official, who requested anonymity, said.

"It was actually a dismissal. It seems the DOJ was just careful not to antagonize the PNP. Look, the resolution was even toned down," the official added.

The four-page DOJ resolution did not discuss the merits of the PNP complaint or explain in detail the reasons for the virtual dismissal of the charges against the three.

It merely narrated the events that transpired from the time the complaint was filed on Nov. 19 to the events leading up to the Nov. 23 preliminary investigation at the DOJ, where Medel went into hysterics and recanted his confession.

Zuño said that with the resolution, there was no reason for the further detention of Medel at the National Bureau of Investigation.

"It's up to the NBI to release him. As far as the DOJ is concerned, we have no case against him. Unless he is being held for other offenses, he should be freed," Zuño said.

Medel, however, insisted yesterday he wanted to remain in NBI custody.

"I feel safe here. I want to spend Christmas here with my new friends," Medel said, as he was being led to the NBI polygraph division for a lie-detector test.

"He does not want to leave the NBI grounds. Even before the charges were dismissed, he asked that he be put under our protective custody," said Ricardo Diaz, head of the NBI's Interpol Division and spokesperson for the investigation.

The family of Martinez, who remains missing, has asked for an independent body to probe the businessman's disappearance last week.

"We're losing trust in the police," Martinez's elder brother, Robert, told the INQUIRER yesterday in a telephone interview.

"It seems they're protecting their fellow policemen who might be involved in my brother's abduction," Robert said.

Robert and his family were to meet yesterday with Interior Secretary Joey Lina "to express our frustration over the slow pace of the investigation" into Mike's disappearance.

The brother said their family believes Medel's allegation that Martinez was abducted and held by the police in connection with the killing of Blanca.

Medel said he saw a bound Martinez at Camp Crame on Nov. 19, the same day he confessed to slaying Blanca and the latter was reportedly abducted.

Medel said Martinez was even punched by Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, Task Force Marsha spokesperson.

Espina has vehemently denied Medel's allegation.

Robert said his family was convinced of Medel's account after he described Martinez as wearing shorts while at Camp Crame.

"No one else knew that my brother was wearing shorts when he was abducted, but Medel knew it so we're convinced he was telling the truth," Robert said.

Martinez was reportedly abducted by seven men and a woman near his home in the Sun Valley Subdivision in Parañaque. Medel had initially claimed he met Strunk through Martinez.

On Wednesday, a body found in Tanauan City, Batangas, was initially thought to be Martinez's.

The body had a tattoo on the left breast, however, which Robert said his brother does not have. *With TJ Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza*

KL deports 550 Pinoy 'illegals'

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia yesterday deported more than 550 illegal immigrants to the southern Philippines and vowed to send back more despite fighting between the Army and rebels in the region.

A total of 566 Filipino Muslims detained for entering or working in Malaysia illegally were put on a ferry in Sandakan, a coastal town in northeastern Sabah state, headed for Zamboanga.

Zamboanga is the site of a week of fighting between Muslim rebels and government forces, which included the taking of more than 100 local people hostage and an aerial bombardment of a regional government building outside the city.

Bustami Yahya, deputy director of a federal task force on illegal immigrants, said Malaysia planned to deport about 1,000 more Filipinos arrested in Sabah in the next two weeks.

"Deportation of Filipino illegal immigrants shall proceed despite the current political strife in southern Philippines," Bustami was quoted as saying by the national news agency, Bernama.

Thousands of people, many of them Muslims, have fled to Sabah—a few hours boat ride from the Philippines—to escape decades of fighting between troops and Muslim rebels in the restive southern region.

On Thursday, fresh clashes broke out between troops and rebels who stayed behind after their cohorts cut a deal for safe passage and freed a batch of hostages. *AP*

Another solon backs Desierto impeachment

ANOTHER congressman has endorsed the impeachment complaint filed against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, a day after the complaint was finally referred to the House committee on justice.

Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers said yesterday he endorsed the complaint filed by lawyer Ernesto Francisco Jr., because he found it sufficient in form and substance.

But he said it was not conclusive though that Desierto is guilty.

He said he was also endorsing the complaint, as he noted that he has always been for good governance.

Barbers said he only got hold of a copy of the complaint last week. He said he doesn't know Francisco, who in his complaint, accused Desierto of taking a bribe in 1997 from his ex-client, businessman Luke Roxas, in exchange of sitting on the investigation involving his bank then.

In filing House Resolution 310, Barbers became the fifth congressman to endorse Francisco's complaint.

It was Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno who endorsed Francisco's complaint. Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltran and Liza Maza followed suit.

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Erap confident Atong won't turn against him

BY VOLT CONTRERAS
AND CARLITO PABLO

JAILED ex-President Joseph Estrada said yesterday he was "not worried a bit" that his former associate, Charlie "Atong" Ang, would turn against him and testify in his plunder case.

Estrada said that even before Ang was arrested by United States marshals in Las Vegas, Philippine government agents had been "intimidating Ang and making him offers" to turn state witness.

"It was the same thing that was done to the other witnesses, (Federico) Pascual and (Carlos) Arellano," Estrada said, referring to formerly close friends who turned state witness against him in his plunder trial.

Pascual and Arellano are former chairmen of the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System, respectively, who testified that Estrada pressured them into buying shares of a crony-owned firm using state pension funds.

Estrada was alleged to have made some P190 million in commissions from the transactions.

Like the two, Estrada said, Ang is being threatened with being an "instrument of extortion, (with) the plunder law, which bars the accused from posting bail."

Tell the truth

"*Matagal na nilang pinupuntahan 'yon* (Ang). *Lahat na ng alok ginawa nila* (They have been going to see him for a long time. They have offered him everything [to turn against me])," Estrada told the INQUIRER over the phone.

"I'm not worried a bit," he said, when asked if he thought Ang would turn against him.

Estrada added, "I wish he (Ang) would return as soon as possible so we can finally get this over with. He only has to tell the truth."

Also yesterday, Ang's friend and lawyer, Freddie Villamor, said that if his client ends up in court, he "will stick to what he said during the Senate blue ribbon committee hearings."

Villamor was referring to last year's Senate hearings where Ang flatly denied involvement in illegal gambling payoffs and a tobacco tax scam which became the basis for the plunder charges against Estrada.

"We've been preparing for it (trial). But for now our present concern is his extradition," Villamor said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER in Manila.

Villamor said Ang, whom he last talked to over the phone about two weeks ago, now has a separate set of "American lawyers" handling his extradition case.

No pressure

He said Ang never told him about being pressured by anyone to turn against Estrada.

Malacañang, however, said Ang was welcome to turn state's evidence against Estrada, provided he could convince the government he has "the goods" on his deposed friend, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

"We're not wooing him but we're open to any proposals on the part of Mr. Ang to present himself as a witness," Tiglao said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the Department of Foreign Affairs to expedite the paper work for Ang's extradition under the RP-US extradition treaty.

Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, who blew the whistle on Estrada and his activities, had pointed to Ang as Estrada's point man in both the gambling and tax kickback schemes for which the ex-president is facing plunder charges.

Tiglao denied suggestions the Philippines and the US were working on an exchange deal involving Ang and another Estrada pal, Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, who is wanted in the US.

"The case of Jimenez is going through the legal grind. There's a pending case. We have to respect the law," Tiglao said.

Tiglao also said there are "standing orders" for the extradition of Jaime Dichavez and Yolanda Ricaforte, both of whom were also implicated in the Estrada plunder cases.

Supporters of Estrada, however, have faith in Ang, believing he will not turn against his disgraced friend.

Only in dreams

"Only in your dreams," read a press statement from the Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

The PMP, Estrada's political party, confirmed the arrival in Las Vegas of Estrada lawyer Raymond Fortun, who is to look into Ang's status in detention and confer with his American lawyers.

Fortun cannot practice law in Las Vegas, as he is not licensed in the state of Nevada.

Ang, 43, is being held in a North Las Vegas jail used to house federal prisoners, according to the Associated Press.

He was arrested Sunday in the lobby of the Paris Las Vegas hotel casino and appeared Monday in US District Court in Las Vegas.

Federal Magistrate Lawrence Leavitt scheduled an international extradition hearing for Feb. 28.

Ang's American lawyer, Donald Etra of Los Angeles, said Wednesday by telephone from Washington DC, that "Mr. Ang vigorously denies the allegations. This case is purely political—part of the continuing efforts of the current Philippine administration to discredit Mr. Estrada." *With Rocky Nazareno and an AP report*

Customs astir over senators' tantrums

BY B.S. RIVERA

THE BUREAU of Customs was in a state of panic yesterday after two administration senators threatened to defect to the opposition if two customs officials in Cebu were not relieved.

Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva was called to a meeting with Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho to discuss the action to be taken against Santiago Maravillas and Elizabeth Amejo, who both allegedly facilitate smuggling in the country.

A Customs source said the officials have been trying to resolve the problem concerning Maravillas long before the outburst against them by Senators John Osmeña and Robert Barbers.

The two senators' outburst came during the deliberations on the budget of the Department of Finance where they chastised Camacho for failing to remove the two customs officials.

In Baguio City, Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar Jr. said Osmena's threat to bolt the majority would not harm the delicate balance in the Senate. But he advised Malacañang to take Osmeña's views seriously.

Customs sources said complaints have been raised at the bureau shortly after Maravillas was promoted to officer in charge of Cebu to replace Roberto Sacramento in October.

Araw-araw Pasko sa LAKI ng Diskwento!

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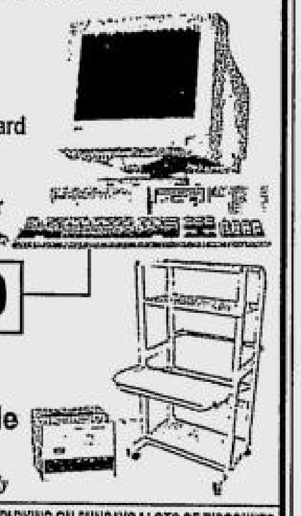

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Asiaweek mag closes down after 26 years

(From page A1)

"Our staff's passion, dedication and enthusiasm, which succeeded in creating a far better magazine earlier this year, have been truly impressive—and certainly made the decision even more painful," Brack said in a statement issued after he met with Asiaweek employees.

Norman Pearlstine, editor in chief of Time Inc., also paid homage to the Asiaweek staff.

"The staff has exceeded every expectation we had for the new Asiaweek. They produced a vibrant magazine that was relevant and distinctive," Pearlstine said.

"But no one could have predicted that the downturn in the advertising market would be this brutal," he added.

At Asiaweek's corporate parent, Time Inc., chair and chief executive Don Logan said in a statement the decision to shut down the magazine was made after reviewing "its performance and long-term business prospects." He gave no details on the magazine's finances.

The Asiaweek staff would be paid through the end of December, and Time spokesperson Anna Soellner said the parent company would place as many employees in other AOL Time Warner businesses. She, however, added that not everyone would be given new jobs.

Soellner said Asiaweek had been beating revenue targets but the global economic downturn made worse by the Sept. 11 terror attacks had hit the publication hard.

"We re-launched in May and we were doing really well. But the global economy turned around and we had to redo our numbers. Then Sept. 11 happened, and that kind of threw our strategy up in the air," she said.

Like other giants in the publishing industry, Time Inc. has resorted to retrenchments this year because of poor market conditions.

Time Inc., which currently employs about 12,100 people, has eliminated about 1,000 jobs this year through layoffs, attrition and an early retirement plan.

The Wall Street Journal's online edition reported that Time Inc. was also closing down two other magazines—On and Family Life. It wasn't clear how many jobs would be lost.

On, which started out as a technology supplement called Time Digital, was relaunched earlier this year in cooperation with America Online, Time Inc.'s corporate cousin within AOL Time Warner Inc.

Time Inc. acquired Family Life two years ago from Hachette Filipacchi Magazines, a division of the French conglomerate Lagardere.

Earlier this year, Time Inc. shut down three magazines from the Times Mirror Magazines group it had acquired, and another six magazines from IPC, a British publisher it had bought this fall.

Last year, Time Inc. closed down Life magazine, which now publishes occasional special issues.

The bad times have also prompted job cuts in the Hong Kong media business, including 18 positions at the English-language daily South China Morning Post and 100 positions at its rival, the tabloid Hong Kong iMail.

Asiaweek's main competitor, Far Eastern Economic Review, recently merged its editorial staff with that of The Asian Wall Street Journal.

The merger resulted in the layoff of about 25 percent of the combined staff of the two publications, both of which are owned by Dow Jones & Co. *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

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- Sally's Jewelries (6 outlets) (52/54 Magnolia Lane, 3rd flr)
- Accurate Business Machines Inc. (Unit G-8 2/f Molave Lane)
- Interlink Computer Center (unit 1-10 2/f)
- World Wide Video (67 Molave Lane 2/f)
- OMI Enterprise (2/f Stall #10)
- IFB / Hello World Marketing (#19 Catleya Lane 3/f)
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Pasong Tamo
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- Head-Pro Barbershop & Beauty Parlor (1 Gov. I Santiago St. Malinta)
- NU-3x Computer Shop (#7 G. Lazaro St. Daladanan Valenzuela City)
- VGL Gift Shop & Gen. Merchandise (8 Gov. Santiago Malinta)
- L.A. & Nash Computers (Policarpio St. Gen. T. De Leon)
- Czarels (Unit 4-A Halina Comm'l Complex Malinta)
CALOOCAN
- Acebedo Optical (256 Samson Rd.)
- Earl Computer Center (G/F LRT Northmall)
- Columbia Caloocan Photo (37 Bustamante St.)
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- Utica Merchandising (118-b Susana St.)
- Selig Enterprise (370 Rizal Ave., Ext., Grace Park)
- Smartlink Computer Rental (B. Serrano cor. Aslstio St.)
- Deka Motorcycle Parts (Howard Tower Cond. 6th Ave., Susana St.)
- Misha.net Computer Center (Samson road)
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- Cynthias Little Market Corp. (M.H. Del. Pilar St., Grace Park)
- Blockbuster World (8th Ave., West Cor. Rizal Ave., Ext.)
- Precious Touch of beauty (11th Ave.)
- Mona del Printing & Trading (Edsa cor. Gen. Tinio St.)
- Letty's Store (P. Burgos St.)
10th Avenue
- Jessnette (West)
- Jeronet Cyber Café (218f)
- Infobyte Café (206)
- OJC Video (240 East, Grace Park)

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- Cybergold Computer Center (cor. Hizon St.)
- Our Lady of Grace Documentation (P. Burgos St.)
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- AKPJ Grocery & Gen. Mdse. (Sangandaan)
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- Demcall Pharmacy (45 Gen. Luna St. San Agustin)
- L8 City Wash (44 Gen Luna st. San Agustin)
- Vey Sari-sari Store (M.H. Del Pilar St. Tugatog)
- B-Plugged Computer Rental (M.H. Del Pilar St., Tugatog)
- Hardsoft Computer Center (Ibarra St., Acacia)
- BLS Pharmacy & Gen. Mdse. (Francis Mkt. Tinajeros)
- Franco Drugs (Gen. Luna St.)
- Wilson Computer Sales (Rosas Arcade 2F Concepcion St.)
- Felix Playcenter (Gen. Luna St.)
LAS PIÑAS
- Hurricane MicroSystem (78 2nd Level SM Southmall)
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- Clements Enterprise (329 PD cera Ave. Pulanglupa)
- Semi-Point (431 Talon Uno, Real St.
MAILSTATION

From one hero to the other

(From page A1)

in Manila on July 3, 1892, Bonifacio was a founding member.

The Noli and Fili exposed what Bonifacio himself condemned: the evils of the Spanish colonial government; the immorality of the clergy; the unpunished crimes, arrogance and corruption of the civil, religious, and military authorities; an educational system that kept the masses ignorant and subservient.

Bonifacio, who was born poor, had very little schooling and earned a meager income as a warehouseman, understood what Rizal was talking about in the Noli and the Fili.

With his Noli, first published in 1887, Rizal captured the attention and accolades of his fellow nationalists both in Europe and in the Philippines. He reaped a harvest of praises, including Bonifacio. When the Fili was published four years later, Rizal had it made as the leader of the patriots.

Through the *Noli* and the *Fili*, Bonifacio understood that Rizal longed for reforms, and when reforms failed, to seek independence via revolution. Bonifacio thought the same way.

Password

As the Supremo or supreme head of the national secret revolutionary movement, *Kataastaasan Kagalanggalang Na Katipunan Nang Manga Anak Nang Bayan* (Highest and Most Respectable Society of the Sons of the People) or *Katipunan*, he ordered that the word Rizal be used as the password of *Bayani* (Patriot), the third and highest-grade members of the Katipunan.

The second-grade members called *Kawal* (Soldier) used *Gomburza* as their password in honor of the native Filipino martyred priests Mariano Gomez, Jose Burgos and Jacinto Zamora.

The first grade members called *katipon* (member) used *Anak ng Bayan* (Son of the People) as their password.

Bonifacio also elected Rizal the honorary president of the Katipunan and ordered that his pictures be hung in the meeting hall of the Katipunan Supreme Council as well as in other Katipunan headquarters and meeting places.

Thus, the *Katipuneros* were made quite aware that Rizal was the inspiration of their movement. Many Katipuneros even began to believe that Rizal was behind the Katipunan and their planned revolution against the Spanish colonial government.

Upon the Katipunan's discovery, the authorities raided the printing press of "El Diario de Manila" where "Kalayaan (Liberty)," the Katipunan newspaper, was secretly printed. Also raided were the warehouse of the British firm Fressel and Co. where Bonifacio was employed as a porter.

Long live

In these raids, several of Bonifacio's personal papers and Katipunan documents were confiscated. Some of them were used as exhibits for documentary evidence against Rizal during the latter's trial in November-December 1896. Two of those exhibits were transcripts of speeches delivered by Emilio Jacinto and Jose Turiano Santiago, leading Katipunan officials. The concluding parts of the speeches read:

"In the meantime, let us stimulate our spirits with these cries Long live the Philippines! Cheers for liberty! Long live Dr. Rizal! Unity!" (Manila), July 23, 1893.—*Pinkian.*

"Let us all shout as one voice: Long live the Philippines! Cheers for Liberty! Cheers for the illustrious Doctor Rizal! Death to the nation of tyrants!"—Manila, Santa Cruz, July 23, 1893.—*Tiktik*

Pinkian and *Tiktik* were pseudonyms of Jacinto and Santiago. As early as 1893, Rizal was no longer just used as a password. His name had also become the Katipunan cry for unity and liberty. His portrait was a symbol of patriotism and freedom.

So, it was not the American colonial government which first ordered the public use of Rizal's pictures like in currencies and schools so that people would emulate the values he stood for.

That distinction belongs to Bonifacio and his fellow Katipuneros, the first cause-oriented Filipino masses. The gesture was a sincere expression of their affection for Rizal.

It cannot also be true that it was Del Pilar who influenced Bonifacio more than Rizal did. Del Pilar wanted ". . . not any kind of sacrifice from Spain, but all they ask is that they be governed good or poorly, but with a full understanding of their cause, that their necessities be expressed through legal means . . . and to demand that their Archipelago . . . be hispanized" (Marcelo H. Del Pilar, "Asimilacion de Filipinas [Assimilation of the Philippines]," La Solidaridad, Sept. 30, 1889, pp. 4-5).

Bonifacio never dreamed of an assimilated and a hispanized Philippines. The isolation of Lopez Jaena and Del Pilar from the Katipunan indicated that neither of them influenced Bonifacio's thinking.

Consultation

In June 1896, Bonifacio commissioned Pio Valenzuela to go to Dapitan where Rizal was in exile to know the latter's views regarding their plans against Spain. Valenzuela did not return empty-handed for he got advice on the accumulation of men, arms, financial resources; the support of wealthy Filipinos, and the timing for the uprising.

For Bonifacio and the entire Katipunan structure, Rizal was their highest-ranked and sole *bayani* (patriot), their consultant, their cry for unity and liberty, and their honored leader.

The Filipino nationalists in Spain had also elected Rizal the honorary president of their organization, "Asociacion La Solidaridad (Solidarity Association)" founded on Dec. 31, 1888 in Barcelona. But there was no hero-worship there. A leadership dispute ensued in which Rizal and Del Pilar collided. In February 1891, the reformists were hotly divided on the leadership issue. Though Rizal already obtained the required two-thirds majority after three votings, he refused to accept the leadership in order not to divide and derail the Filipino reform movement.

Rizal's compatriots in Spain, who only demanded reforms, assimilation, and Hispanization, were not in harmony with the revolutionary tendencies of Rizal.

'Most beloved'

In early 1897 while in Cavite trying to reconcile the local Katipunan factions, Bonifacio issued a proclamation condemning the brutalities ordered against Filipinos by Spanish Governor-General Camilo Polavieja.

Bonifacio proclaimed (italics supplied):

". . . It is there in your memory that the thousands who were martyred by the deceptive hand of the Spanish; the wails, sighs, and cries of those orphaned by their cruelties; our brothers who were thrown into miserable jails and are now suffering from merciless tortures; those who have been separated from their children, wives, and aging parents who were banished to far-flung places; and the execution of *our most beloved countryman, the honorable Jose' Rizal*, have already cut a wound in our hearts that shall no longer be healed. All of this enflame to anger even the coldest blood, and enrage us to fight the Spaniards who give us all of these sufferings and deaths" (Teodoro A. Agoncillo, "The Writings and Trial of Andres Bonifacio," Manila, 1963, pp. 70-71).

Rizal was executed on Dec. 30, 1896, four months after Bonifacio and the Katipunan began the first anti-colonial revolution in Asia.

Rizal was specially mentioned in the proclamation. Others were mentioned in general: the orphaned, the widows, etc. This proclamation was the last public tribute of Rizal from the Father of the Philippine Revolution who himself started the tradition of homage to Rizal as the national hero.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, November 30, 2001
St. Andrew, Apostle

1st Reading: **Rom 10:9-18**
Gospel: **Mt 4:18-22**

As Jesus walked by the lake of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

He went on from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them.

At once they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Commentary

Jesus appears on the scene without previous introduction. This sudden appearance creates a dramatic emphasis on the authority of Jesus. He calls at the first encounter without being known to those whom he calls. The calling by Jesus comes like a revival of the call of the prophets. Jesus calls his disciples to follow after him. "To follow after" is the expression used in the gospel for discipleship. Jesus is the master. The Christian is a disciple of Jesus the master. More than a student, the disciple learns everything on God only from the master and becomes one with him in his life and destiny. "To fish for people" is the prophetic language used in searching out people with urgency.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—When is a party guilty of forum shopping—A party is guilty of forum shopping when he repetitively avails of several judicial remedies in different courts, simultaneously or successively, all substantially founded on the same transactions and the same essential facts and circumstances, and all raising substantially the same issues either pending in, or already resolved adversely, by some other court. And what is truly important to consider in determining whether forum shopping exists is the vexation caused the courts and the litigants by a party who asks different courts and/or administrative agencies to rule on the same or related causes and/or grant the same or substantially the same reliefs, in the process creating the possibility of conflicting decisions being rendered by the different for a upon the same issues. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Bellosillo, Second Division, Tantoy, Jr. v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 141427, April 20, 2001]

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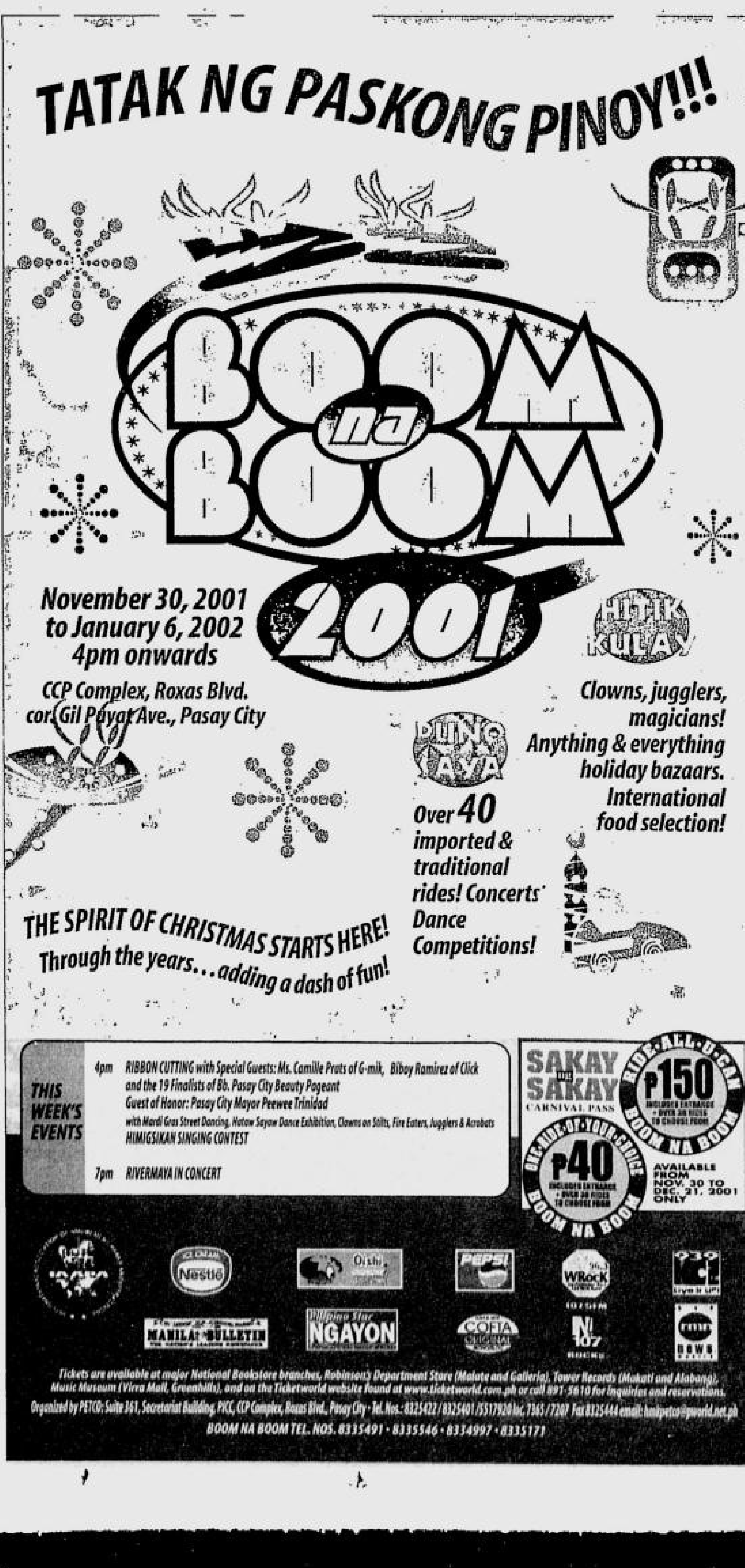
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with Mardi Gras Street Dancing, Hataw Sayaw Dance Exhibition, Clowns on Stilts, Fire Eaters, Jugglers & Acrobats
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CASE OF THE MISSING PAPERS

What's with Justice Badoy?

By Volt Contreras

WHAT'S with Sandiganbayan Justice Anacleto Badoy?

The controversial Sandiganbayan justice handling the Estrada plunder case surprised court employees and mediamen by showing up at the GMA7 TV station late afternoon yesterday—seeking a meeting with news anchor Mike Enriquez.

Once on air over the news program "Saksi" at the around 6:45 last night, Badoy, 69, said he came over to shed light on the reported "disappearance" of a draft resolution on the Estrada plunder case.

He said he strongly suspects that the culprit was one of his personal staffers in the 3rd Division, which he chairs.

Badoy arrived at the GMA complex, oddly, in an ambulance—so he could travel "lying down."

Earlier in the day, Sandiganbayan reporters saw the ambulance parked near the court building and were told by Badoy's daughter Christine Sanchez that he was due to check into an undisclosed hospital to get some rest.

Sanchez said his father has been under heavy stress lately, "not getting enough sleep, not eating on time, and having difficulty urinating."

In his TV interview, Badoy hinted that he was proceeding to the Philippine Heart Center afterwards.

Though not directly naming his prime suspect for the missing document, he mentioned the name of one of his stenographers.

This stenographer, he said, was recorded by Sandiganbayan guards to have left the building Tuesday at 4:10 p.m. "carrying an envelope."

This suspicious exit, he said, took place while most of the court employees were up at the 6th Floor for a program held for retiring Justice Ricardo Ilarde.

Also yesterday, Badoy's staffers remain as "suspects" of the National Bureau of Investigation, which since Tuesday has been looking into the alleged "leakage" of the draft document.

A court source said the NBI had actually subpoenaed six of Badoy's nine staffers—two lawyers, two stenographers, one legal researcher, and his personal driver.

They are required to appear at the NBI's Anti-Organized Crime Division this Dec. 4 at 9 a.m., the source said.

On Wednesday, the INQUIRER learned from another source that the allegedly missing document was an unpromulgated ruling ordering Estrada's return from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center to his previous detention center in a Santa Rosa, Laguna, police training camp.

ALSONS CEMENT TO CONVERT DEBT INTO EQUITY

The shareholders of Alsons Cement Corporation (ACC) approved today the increase in its authorized capital stock to accommodate the conversion into equity of its long term debt owed to Cemco Holdings, Inc. (Cemco), a Philippine holding company.

These loans have had an impact on ACC's profitability through the cost of interest and exposure to foreign exchange movements. The current difficult market conditions for cement in the country are expected to continue for the foreseeable future. To ease the burden, the ACC Board of Directors agreed to restructure its debt via the conversion into common shares.

The conversion requires the issuance of new shares and consequently, an increase in the company's authorized capital stock by P3.315 Billion. Cemco shall subscribe to the shares in consideration for the issuance by Cemco of a convertible note instrument to Holderfin, B.V. This instrument will grant Holderfin, B.V. certain economic rights over, and the option to acquire the shares owned by Cemco in ACC.

The debt conversion will relieve ACC of the burden of servicing a portion of its overall debt and improve its balance sheet.

ACC is a cement manufacturer, employing over 500 employees, with its plant located in Lugait, Misamis Oriental, and marketing its products in various key areas in Visayas and Mindanao.

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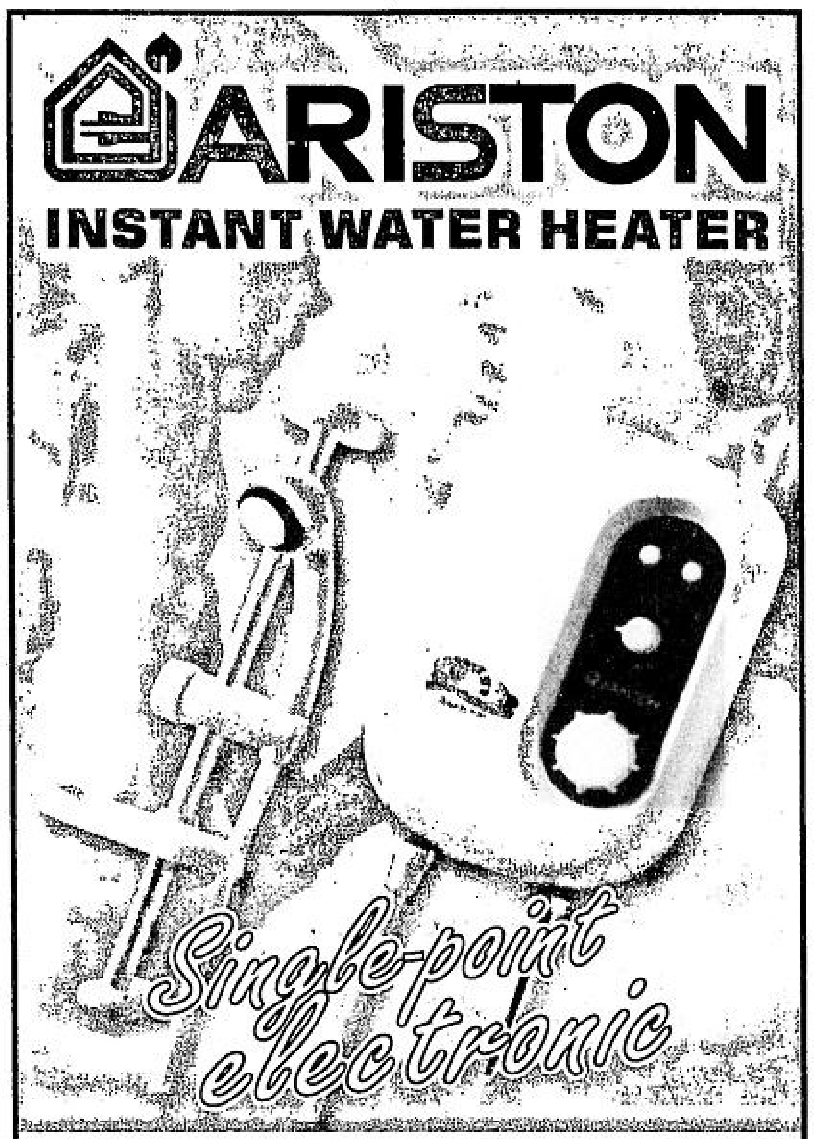

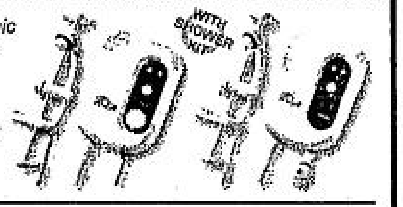

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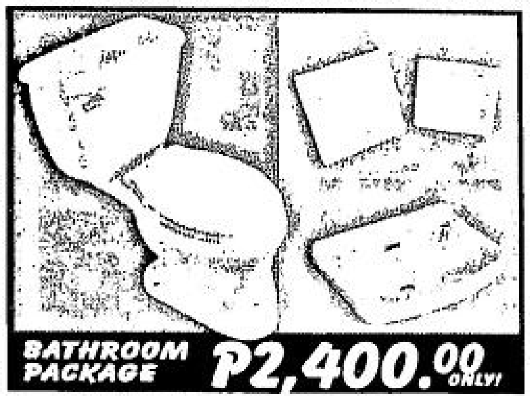

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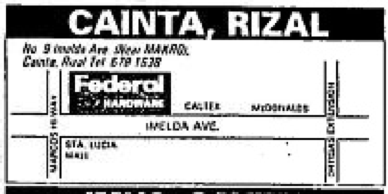

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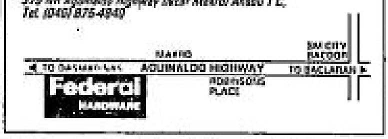

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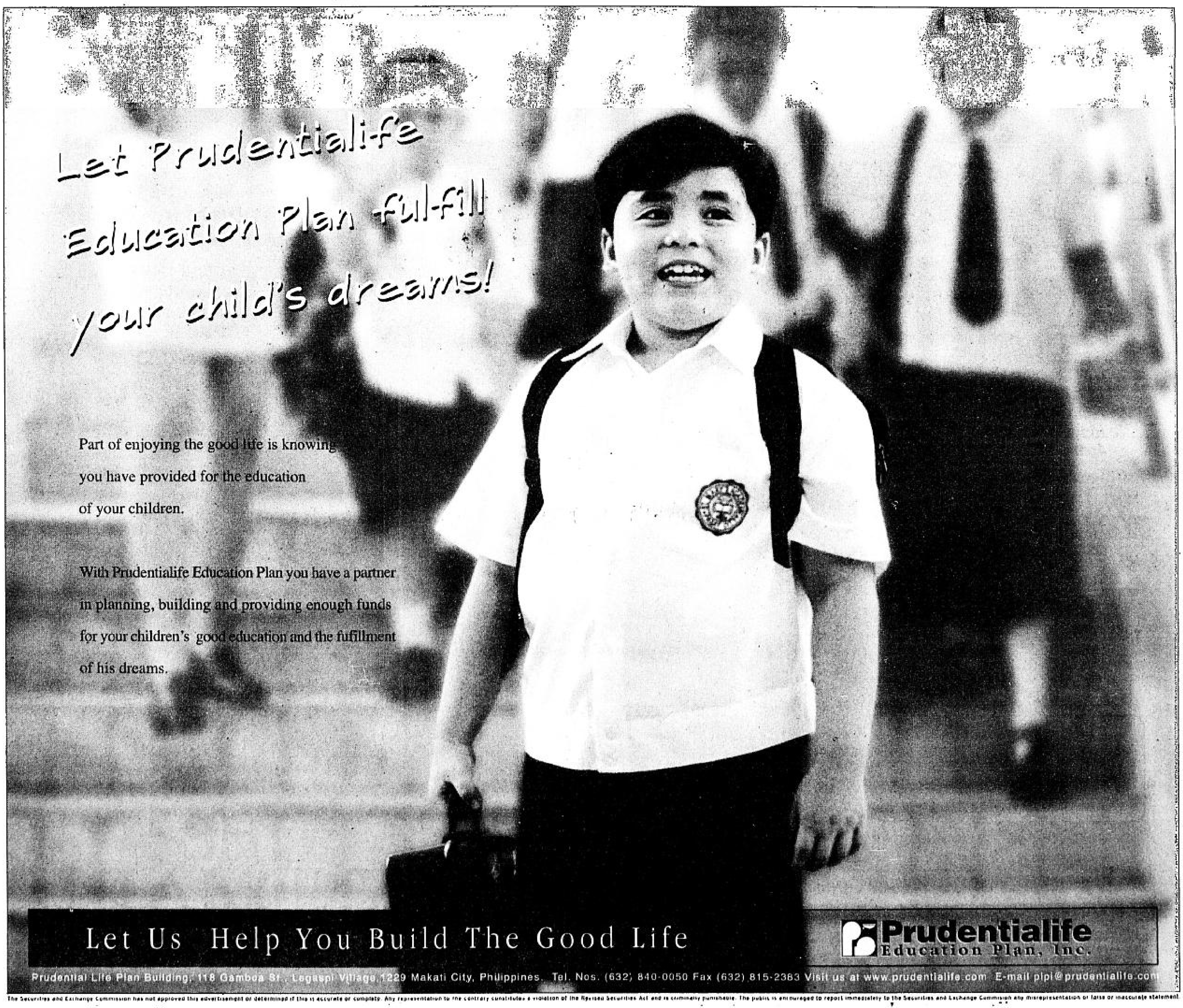
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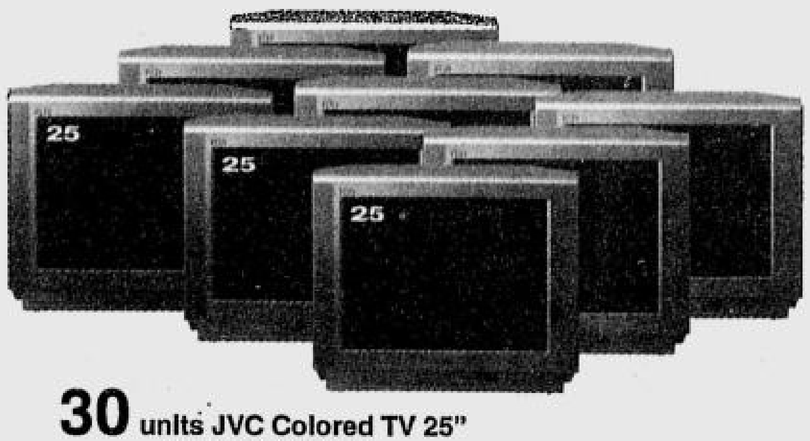

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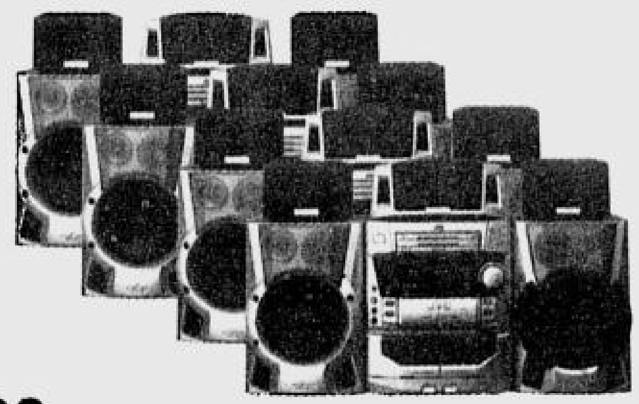

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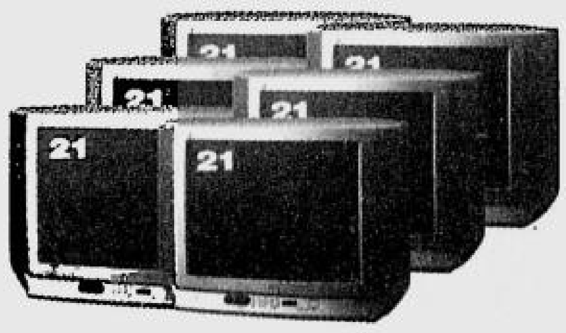

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THE LANDMARK

Per DTI-NCR Permit No A-1-0505, Series of 2001

PAL owes ₱1.8B in Naia fees –DOTC

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

THE PHILIPPINE Airlines owes the government P1.8 billion in landing, parking and take-off fees in its use of Terminal 2 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

This was revealed by the Department of Transportation and Communication yesterday in the wake of a statement issued by the national flag-carrier that it had been diligently paying P10.5 million in monthly rental since August 1999.

"The Philippine Airlines, contrary to its claims, has not been paying for landing, parking and take-off fee which the government has already assessed to be close to P1.8 billion," Cuyco said in a statement yesterday.

As for PAL's claims that it had not allotted for itself the exclusive use of Terminal 2, Cuyco said no airline could use the terminal services since PAL had already occupied all the slots and spaces within the terminal.

"How can other airlines use the Centennial Terminal when PAL has already occupied all slots and spaces within Terminal 2?" Cuyco said.

But PAL quickly refuted Cuyco's claim. A spokesperson said that of the P1.8 billion, which the DOTC said the airline owed the government, only a total of P833.5 million represented landing, parking and take-off fees.

The rest, the spokesperson said, comprised of utilities and interest charges of which PAL is current, citing the P10.5 million monthly rental it has been paying.

He said PAL "had been paying a significant portion" of the P833.5 million in landing, parking and landing fees. The rest of the amount, he said, is still under dispute.

Also refuting the DOTC's insistence that PAL had been using the Terminal 2 exclusively, the spokesperson said it was not PAL's fault that other airlines have refused to use the terminal.

He quoted Naia general manager Edgar Manda's testimony at the House committee on good government. Manda had testified at the committee that he had repeatedly invited other airlines to use the terminal but that they had refused for "technical and practical reasons."

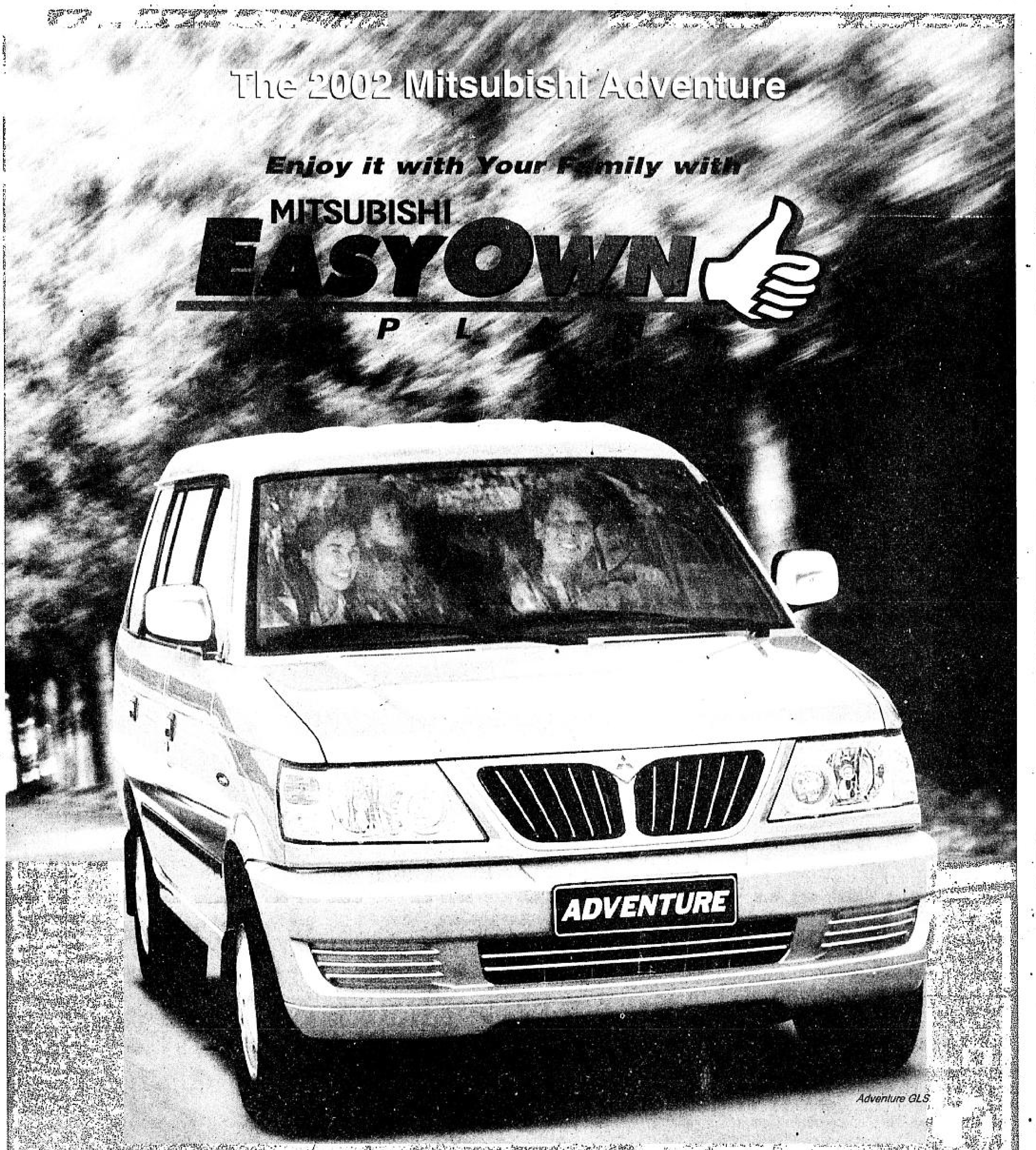
In its earlier statement, PAL said Terminal 2 is not for its exclusive use. It said that at least two foreign airlines have already signified their intention in transferring to the Terminal 2.

"How can PAL offer slots it does not own or even contracted?" the DOTC spokesperson added.

Garcia, 93

PATERNO S. Garcia, a retired real estate broker, native of Ibajay, Aklan, former press relations officer of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and a former project director of the National Cottage Industries Development Authority, died last week in his sleep. He was 93.

His body lies at the Sun Valley Subdivision Catholic Church in Parañaque City. Interment will be tomorrow at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque City after a 9 a.m. Mass at the church.



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Gas A/T	745,000	370,000	12,739	9,301
GLS Diesel M/T	725,000	360,000	12,395	9,049
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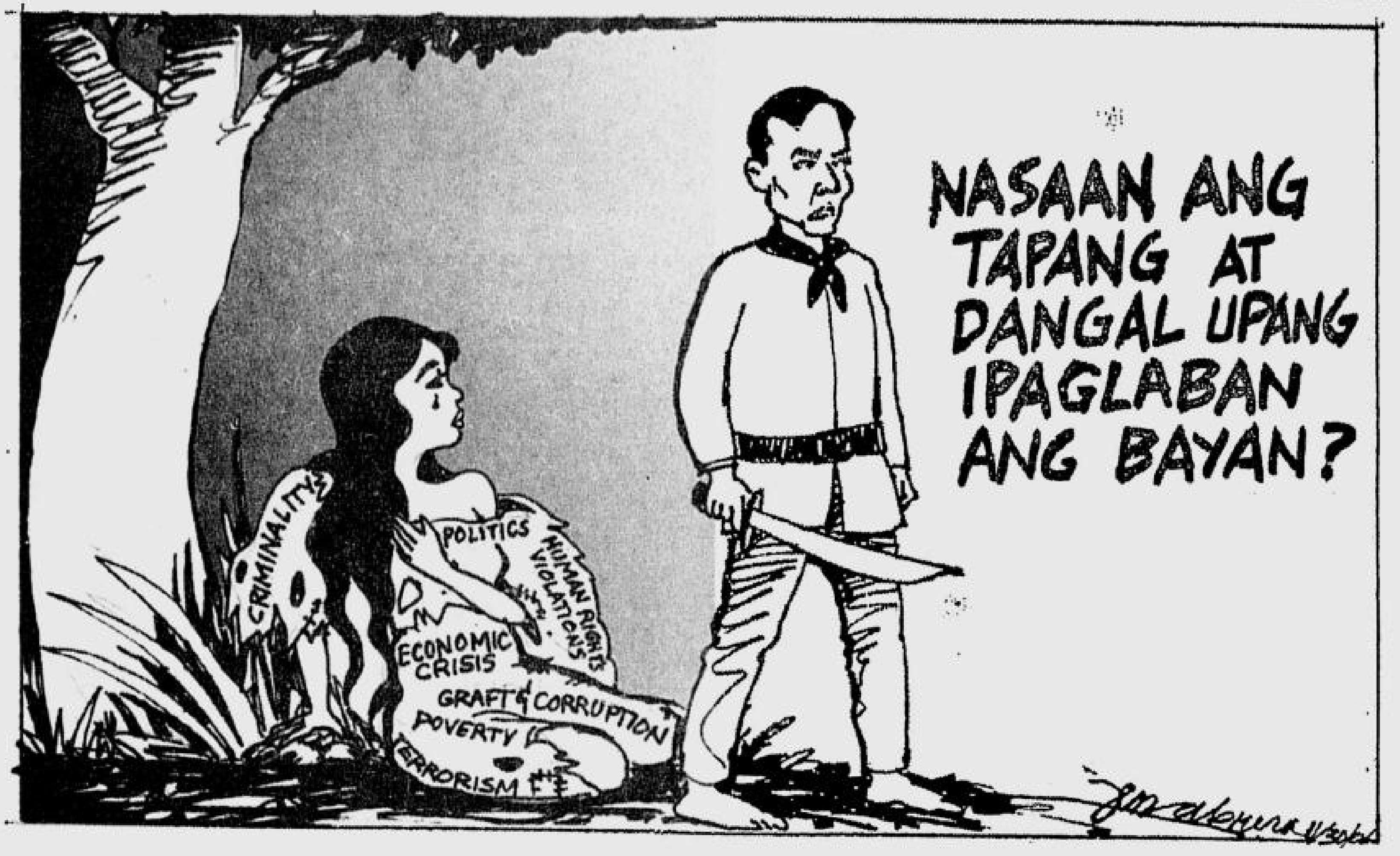

Now for Bin Laden

EDITORIAL

IN JUST two weeks, the military balance in Afghanistan has shifted so dramatically in favor of the Northern Alliance and the United States-British forces that the alliance now occupies more than three-fourths of the country. Kunduz, the last redoubt of the Taliban in northern Afghanistan, has fallen to the alliance.

Military action has now shifted to Kandahar, the key Taliban stronghold in southern Afghanistan and their spiritual capital. The war has entered a new phase with the United States deploying 1,000 Marines near Kandahar, where the Taliban have pledged to die to defend it. The larger US and British commitment of ground troops signifies the success of new tactics that depend heavily on high-tech weaponry fired by aircraft and land forces before the assault of ground troops begin.

The success of this type of operations has laid to rest the assumption that ground forces deployed on the extremely inhospitable Afghanistan terrain would be trapped into a lengthy land war where they could be slaughtered by the Taliban, as the Russians were drawn into a big hole in their invasion of Afghanistan in the 1990s.

The deployment of Marines, as well as the special forces, with fewer than a thousand troops, helped guide aircraft to locate targets and hit them with precision. Militarily, therefore, the United States and its allies have found a new formula of effective land warfare, without massive introduction of ground forces. There's doubt whether the Taliban will put up a better fight in Kandahar than the rapid crumbling of their defenses and desertion of their troops in northern Afghanistan.

The Taliban's defenses are bolstered by foreign troops—Arabs, Pakistanis and central Asians—and they may have little choice except to fight given the killing of these foreigners in northern cities captured by the Northern Alliance.

The biggest question, in the wake of the swift crumbling of the Taliban regime, is the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden, the main target of the US-led war on terrorists. The meltdown of the Taliban removes a shield of protection for Bin Laden. The capture of the Taliban strongholds in northern Afghanistan and the siege of Kandahar have sent Bin Laden on the run. Pakistan has joined in the search to capture Bin Laden and President Pervez Musharraf believes Bin Laden is still in Afghanistan and has taken steps to prevent him from seeking refuge in Pakistan.

While hiding from place to place, Bin Laden may not now be able to direct terrorist operations from a center, protected by a friendly regime, but his al Qaida global network has been described by allied intelligence as being able to carry out attacks with a degree of autonomy from the center provided they follow basic objectives and policies.

The collapse of the Taliban militia is just the stage from which to intensify the hunt on Bin Laden and to destroy the al Qaida networks. Two weeks ago, putting Bin Laden on the run had been undreamed of. In one phase of the anti-terrorist campaign—squeezing the financial means of support for the al Qaida network—the anti-terrorist coalition has achieved a measure of success in stifling the flow of funds running through the regular banking systems of the advanced capitalist economies.

But it is the capture of Bin Laden that is the prime objective of this campaign. Bin Laden has vowed he would rather commit suicide than be captured. The swiftness, however, of the military collapse of the Taliban and the large defections underlines the prospect that, with a big prize tag on his head, Bin Laden faces more risks than before of being captured, killed or betrayed.

The campaign in Afghanistan, more than the campaign against Iraq in the Gulf War, is a demonstration of the effectiveness of the combination between high-tech weaponry and limited deployment of ground forces in very harsh and hostile terrain. This formula, however, may not ensure the capture of Bin Laden. Its success will have to depend on the ancient and time-honored practice—betrayal.

Sandiganbayan's record under Garchitorena dismayed SC

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

BEFORE THE SANDIGANBAYAN was created, graft cases against government personnel were tried by the regular trial courts, along with other criminal and civil cases. Because of their clogged court dockets, the cases took a long time to decide. This encouraged graft in the government because even if a grafter is caught, the case against him took an eternity to resolve.

Because graft was spreading like a malignant cancer, our lawmakers decided to create the Sandiganbayan which would have no other job but to try graft cases. Along with it was created the Office of the Ombudsman with no other job but to investigate and prosecute graft cases. Together, it was expected that the two agencies would curb the spread of the evil of graft in government. No such thing happened.

Instead of lessening instances of graft, they became more numerous, and amounts stolen became much bigger. So much so that Congress invented the crime of "plunder"—for graft cases in which money stolen amounts to P50 million or more—punishable by death. The first defendant accused of that crime is former President Estrada.

Why did the Sandiganbayan and the Ombudsman fail to fulfill the expectations of the people. Because the wheels of justice in their jurisdictions grind so slowly. Why? Alas, because corruption also occur in these agencies that are supposed to stop and punish it. People say that cases can be bought there. Cases where defendants are obviously guilty and therefore would be scandalous to acquit are simply delayed. This has been going on for quite sometime, and it is to the credit of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and the Supreme Court that they did something about it.

Justice Francis Garchitorena is the first presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan, if I am not mistaken. His record, the SC found out, is dismaying.

The court is sitting on 415 cases whose trials have already been finished and have been submitted for decision. Garchitorena's own division alone, the first, has 341 pending cases. In contrast, the second division has only 5 pending cases; the third division (chaired by Garchitorena's nemesis, Justice Anacleto Badoy), 12; the fourth division, only 2, and the fifth division, 52. All these cases have already been submitted for resolution. The Justices only have to write the decision. But in at least 73 cases, no *ponente* has been assigned.

The Justices have only 90 days maximum after submission for resolution to promulgate the decision. But some cases in Garchitorena's own division have been awaiting decision for more than 10 years! Many of the ill-gotten wealth cases against the Marcoses and their cronies are in Garchitorena's division and have hardly moved at all.

No wonder instances of graft are increasing. The Sandigan under Garchitorena has proven that crime pays. Even if you are caught stealing, you can still be free for decades to enjoy the fruits of your loot—which is what the Marcoses are doing.

Obviously, this cannot be allowed to pass, and the high court relieved Garchitorena of his duties as presiding justice of the court, so he could devote his time and energies to writing decisions for all the pending cases in his division. The relief is "indefinite." Presumably, Garchitorena would be reinstated after he catches up with the backlog.

With the Sandigan out of the way, may the tribunal do the same thing to the regional trial courts and even to the Court of Appeals. And, by the way, to itself.

* * *

The winners in this year's NVM Gonzalez Memorial Awards for the Short story have been announced.

They are:

For the best published short story of the year—"Days of Darkness, White Nights" by Charlson Ong, P50,000.

Runners-up: "Death of Fray Salvador Montano, Conquistador of Negros" by Ma. Rosario C. Lucero.

"Fallout" by Ma. L.M. Fres-Felix.

Best first published short story—"Lavender" by Socorro A. Villanueva, P25,000.

Runners-up: "Intersection" by April Timbol Yap

"Bundle" by Jan Philippie V. Carpio.

The board of judges this year is composed of Gregorio C. Brillantes, Gemino Abad, Cirilo Bautista and Nieves B. Epistola.

Awarding ceremonies will be at 5 p.m. Dec. 8, at the Jorge B. Vargas Museum in the Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines.

The raffle for 120 art works will be held after the award ceremonies. Proceeds of the raffle will go to the NVM Gonzalez Awards Foundation. Only 120 tickets for the traffic will be sold at P5,000 each. Each ticket will surely win one artwork.

Because there are more buyers than tickets and art works, and some of the buyers want to buy several tickets, the committee has decided to limit sales to only one ticket per person. That way, more people would have a chance to acquire a valuable work of art for only P5,000.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Subject of Monday's Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) forum is the recent elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanal (ARMM) and the unfortunate caper of Nur Misuari.

Invited guests are Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo and Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, the winner and a losing candidate in the gubernatorial race.

A day for Bonifacio

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DON'T know why they changed the name of this day, Nov. 30, to National Heroes Day. I remember that this used to be Bonifacio Day, in honor of the great plebeian, the founder of the Katipunan, Andres Bonifacio. The original was good enough. Bonifacio deserves a whole day by himself, in the same way that Jose Rizal does. I don't know whose bright idea it was to lump together all the other heroes with Bonifacio. It is not very bright. I'm sure the other heroes deserve their due. But I don't see why they can't be given a day of their own. I don't see why they have to crowd out Bonifacio on his birthday.

I won't resurrect the debate of the '70s on whether Bonifacio or Rizal is the greater hero, and who deserves to be the national one. The terms of that debate in any case look silly from hindsight, Bonifacio's presumed defenders arguing that Rizal was the lesser hero because he represented the *burgis* while Bonifacio was the greater one because he represented the *masa*. Rizal's accomplishments are awesome, and do not need defending from anyone. Nor indeed is his sense of heroism, which has few peers in the past or present. How many individuals possessed of his incredible gifts—he was a true genius of the race—would have devoted their lives to serving their people rather serving themselves. Or faced death with the equanimity that he did, even writing a passionate farewell to the *patria* that he loved on the eve of it.

If it came to that, I don't know why we shouldn't hail two national heroes for their signal contributions to the making of this nation. As far as I know, there is no cultural or legal barrier to it.

And I won't go into that other, more recent, debate about whether Bonifacio was truly a proletarian or not. That debate was spawned by a group of people claiming that Bonifacio did not really come from the working class but from a fairly solid family who could afford to send him to school. And that it probably wasn't true that he sold canes and fans, he was a clerk in some company. I don't know why it should matter too greatly whether Bonifacio was lower middle class or proletarian. Clearly, he wasn't well off but was one of those who had to use his wits, if not his brawn, to make a living. That is pretty much *masa* by most people's reckoning.

Which is what makes his contribution to the making of this nation all the more heroic. That is the thing worth dwelling on. Bonifacio's Katipunan was a revolt of the masses, if by that is meant that it owed to someone who came from the masses, and gave shape and voice to the dreams of the masses. Those dreams went beyond those of the more affluent members of the society, the *burgis*, who thought essentially in terms of accommodation with the colonial rulers. From the other end, they also went beyond the dreams of the quasi-religious movements, the ones that combined myth and religious rituals, which were essentially backward-looking, harking back to more pristine times. It was a real revolt, or revolution, and it came from the masses.

That was what made it unique to this part of the world. The other anti-colonial movements in Asia were essentially bourgeois movements, if by that is meant the general sense that they owed their existence to the local elite and gave shape and voice to the dreams of the local elite. Of course the Philippine Revolution was also inspired to a great extent by the ideas of the local elite, or the local intelligentsia—the Propagandists of the last quarter of the 19th century—many of whom lived as exiles in Spain. Bonifacio expressly credited Rizal with many of his ideas, even if Rizal himself rejected a revolution against Spain to end its tyranny. It was the Propagandists, especially Rizal, who articulated the plight of the *indios*, who lifted the mirror to his compatriots from which they might see their lot in life.

But it was Bonifacio who brought their work to its logical conclusion. It was Bonifacio who, like the crew of Starship Enterprise, went boldly where no Filipino had dared go before. Not even those who had incurred the wrath of the colonial rulers by boldly exposing their lack of a moral right to rule. The Propagandists before him had complained bitterly of their oppression, but none had seriously thought of living a life without Spain. Bonifacio did. Like Alexander, he saw that the solution to that Gordian knot was simple and direct: self-rule.

And there's more. For Bonifacio also went far beyond his contemporaries in seeking liberation from Spain, he went beyond them in seeking liberation for what Franz Fanon would later call the wretched of the earth. The Katipunan, the revolutionary organization that Bonifacio founded, was not an organization of *ilustrados* and *principales*, it was an organization of simple folk: farmers, *obreros* and poor students. While it drew its inspiration from the writings of the Propagandists, it also articulated its own political ideas, to be found in the writings of Emilio Jacinto and Bonifacio and in the rituals of the Katipunan itself. Or more than ideas, intense feelings of loyalty, love of country ("No love surpasses love of country," Bonifacio said) and *kapatiran* (the Tagalog word *"kapatid"* is gender-neutral).

That was what made Bonifacio's project truly revolutionary. Not the fact that it was an armed uprising, not the fact that it was clamorous, not the fact that it reeked of blood. Bonifacio was not a great general, that is true, but he was a great leader, if by that is meant someone who had a great vision and a great capacity to inspire. The Katipunan did not only give Asia its first anti-colonial revolt in Asia, it gave Asia its first profoundly egalitarian uprising. That is no mean feat.

I still cannot understand why they changed Bonifacio Day to National Heroes Day.

Scavenging for scandals

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE OVERTHROW of two governments in 15 years through mass mobilization called "people power," plus the May 1 rebellion that attacked Malacañang Palace, has left a venomous legacy to Philippine democracy. It has nurtured the dangerous notion that the main preoccupation of citizens is to look for dirt to smear a sitting government and topple it through the constitutional weapon of impeachment..

Thus, before the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo could complete its first year, it has been rocked by a rebellion to remove her from office, and a slew of charges of corruption. The latest of these are the charges of a certain Pacifico Marcelo who has accused the President of allegedly shaking him down for a 51 percent cut in the assets of telecommunication enterprises for which he has been seeking a legislative franchise. Marcelo claims he is prepared to back his charges with an affidavit, but so far his allegations have not been backed by evidence. They are based on his narrative.

This man seems to be a know-all and he happens to be afflicted by an obnoxious arrogance expressed by his statement to the press that he can bring down the government. "I can take this entire house down," he told a select group of journalists. The best way for the government to respond to his allegations is to answer them with facts. Senator Joker Arroyo, chair of the Senate Blue Ribbon committee, has already pointed out something fishy about Marcelo's enterprises. According to Arroyo, it appears it was Marcelo who was shaking down the President; and, according to presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, the President did not call Marcelo to the palace. It was he who presented his scheme to the President. Senator Arroyo has pointed out that Marcelo's company, the Philippine Communications Clearing House Inc., has only a paid-up capital of P562,000. "It is very obvious that he only intends to sell the franchise afterwards, especially if such a communication clearinghouse would have a projected annual revenue of $1.1 billion," said Senator Arroyo.

So, it's Marcelo's word against the President's. Marcelo reminds me of a Filipino inventor who once peddled the scheme that he could convert water into fuel for motor vehicles, replacing petrol. Some senators, who are itching to dig up any scandal that would embarrass the administration or to set in motion an impeachment case, are dignifying the unsubstantiated charges.

Marcelo apparently is inspired by the success of ex-Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's exposé on the *jueteng* pay-offs that started the ball rolling for deposed President Estrada's impeachment. But Singson's exposé cannot be duplicated. He had unveiled documents and evidence which were taken seriously not only by the then opposition senators but more so by Jaime Cardinal Sin, leaders of civil society and former President Aquino, and most of the press, including the pro-Estrada press. The evidence was strong enough to drive Singson's charges through an impeachment trial—the first to ever happen in the presidency of this country.

In a cheap imitation of Singson, Marcelo called a press conference attended by a select group of journalists, hoping it would start a bandwagon like the Oct. 9 press conference of Singson at Club Filipino, at which he dropped the bombshell. Before Singson's exposé, the nation had been awash with rumors of Estrada's alleged corruption, and his charges crystallized what the public had been hearing for some time.

I should not be understood as condoning corruption—which is a serious crime that makes the poor poorer and that erodes fatally confidence in government. But impeachment is a process that should not be used routinely as a weapon to bring down a president, for whimsical reasons. The Senate has no obligation to dignify allegations seeking to oust a president from any citizen who has the delusion that he holds the sovereign power of life and death of a presidency merely on the basis of unsubstantiated charges. We are not even sure whether Marcelo is a citizen of this country or of the United States, and so his credentials to initiate charges aimed at impeachment are dubious.

Impeachment should be used sparingly and with great restraint. Presidents have a job to do—govern a country well. Impeachment is a process of accountability and should be used only on the basis of serious allegations that are backed by evidence—not merely self-serving narrations. As we have experienced, the Estrada impeachment was an exercise that sapped the energy of the nation. After Estrada, I don't think we can stand another impeachment so soon that paralyzes and divides the nation.

The allegation that President Macapagal blatantly demanded a huge cut in Marcelo's scheme is hard to believe. I have not yet heard any president—including President Marcos and President Estrada—demanding face to face a cut in any deal. They do it through third persons. They have enough respect for the dignity of the office of the president. President Macapagal is not dumb or callous. Marcelo does not know the culture of the presidency.

Citizens of this country—not those of other countries—have to consider carefully whether the President they installed after Estrada is competent, or has a good grasp of our problems as we struggle to lift ourselves from the economic slowdown, or have directly involved herself in corrupt practices. She can be changed in 2004 if it develops that corruption charges have a reasonable basis in evidence or that she is incompetent. In the meantime, she should be given a chance to govern. Citizenship in a democracy is not about scavenging for scandals. It is more about setting the environment for effective governance. When self-righteous citizens believe they have the right to depose a government because it does not fit into their conception of good governance, then we are on the road to a volatile, revolving door democracy.

Bishops also grow old

HIGH BLOOD

Denis Murphy

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

CATHOLIC bishops must submit their resignations when they reach 75. They have of course the same problems every old person has: what will I do, what will happen to me, who will take care of me? Recently at the 75th birthday celebration of Bishop Julio Labayen in Infanta, Quezon a group of bishops and priests discussed the retirement regulation. They said a number of bishops retire and then find they have nothing to do. After a lifetime of being in charge it is troubling to find that no one seems to need them.

Bishop Labayen said he has prepared himself psychologically for old age and retirement—if people can ever prepare themselves for the surprises, good and bad, of old age. "Old age is a blessed time," he thinks, "because we can look back on our whole lives and understand the meaning of all the things that happened, the mistakes, the efforts to overcome mistakes. Wisdom comes with old age, as they say."

He plans to continue his ecumenical work with the great religions of Asia—Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism. In his meetings with other religions, he says he stresses, "the person of Jesus Christ, God incarnate." He introduces non-Christians to the mystery of Jesus and to the unity of all men and women that the Incarnation brings about. "I always try to be clear, I tell my non-Catholic listeners that I speak to them of God in the flesh. I thought I knew Jesus Christ when I was studying theology as a young man. I didn't know him well of course. I see now that to have God incarnate can be understood as the hope of all religions." He told the Nuncio he stresses Jesus Christ rather than the institution of the Church.

But the Church is also an institution," the Nuncio answered.

"Yes it is and I love the Church," the bishop said. "I've loved the Church all my life but we have made the mistake of presenting together the person of Jesus and the culture-conditioned Church. Jesus is the center."

He describes the differences between the pre Vatican II type of bishop and the post Conciliar type with self-deprecating humor. When he was appointed Apostolic Administrator in 1961 his fellow Carmelite priests had a beautiful throne built for him to be placed at the side of the altar. His benefactors gave him a golden cross and a ring studded with rubies. "Conditioned by such things, I began to act as a prince, talked down to people, told everyone what to do. I wrote memos to my Carmelite brother priests telling them what I thought they should think and do. At one meeting, however, I learned no Carmelite ever read the memos. They went straight into the waste basket. I was knocked off my high horse and never got back up."

The bishop says he has no regrets. "What has happened is God's doing. *Dominus est!*" He says he has suffered and grown angry when people accused him of being a Marxist and disloyal to the Church. "I love the Church," he repeats emphatically.

Bishop Labayen's prime goal as head of the Infanta Church has been to discover what it means to be the Church of the poor, and to find the method of formation, the spirituality and the model of leadership needed to sustain this Church. Most of his people are small farmers, fishermen and tribal people who deeply appreciate the Church's thrust.

Asked to give examples of what Church of the Poor is in the concrete, he points to the works he has undertaken—education and organizing work among the tribal Dumagats in the mountains, so they can deal with loggers, land grabbers, the communist-led New People's Army and the government's paramilitary Revolutionary Army of the Country, and in the process become free. Farmers and fishermen are organized into peasant associations and coops. They patrol the forests to limit logging and the seas to stop illegal trawling. At the lowest point in its history the Prelature chose to go on with its work for the poor and its opposition to the martial law government of Ferdinand Marcos, though several of its lay leaders walked out of an important meeting.

What are his suggestions for other older persons and for everyone? "Keep exploring, try to understand more and be open to new ideas. See the Lord, *'Dominus est,'* in whatever happens good and bad. Remember, redemption is from within humanity. There is no spirituality above or aside from it."

Dennis Murphy is over 60 and works with Urban Poor Associates

US envoy Zinni faces uphill battle for peace

NEWS ANALYSIS

Megan Goldin

JERUSALEM—Retired US Marine Corps General Anthony Zinni must overcome a dizzying array of Israeli and Palestinian stumbling blocks in his mission to prod both sides to return to the path of peace, analysts said on Tuesday.

The soldier-diplomat will not only need to overcome any reluctance or reservations from both Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat but also a host of domestic considerations on both sides.

Israeli analyst Reuven Hazan said Sharon's policy was to stall while maintaining the status quo, because if he freezes Jewish settlement construction, as a US-backed truce-to-talks plan demands, his coalition government could collapse.

"The Israeli government has to make a decision, and when it does, there is a prospect it will tear the government apart," Hazan said.

Palestinian analyst Khalil Shikaki said another obstacle was Arafat's inability to enforce a ceasefire "because during a year of the Intifada (uprising) his capacity to do so has diminished."

Palestinian analysts say Arafat can't clamp down on militants, as the truce plan demands, without first being able to show his people they have gained from a 14-month uprising against occupation in which at least 724 Palestinians have been killed.

They say Israeli killings of Palestinian militants, including its assassination of Hamas master-bomber Mahmoud Abu Hanoud last Friday, inflames anger and ties Arafat's hands.

All of those obstacles are still there, but Zinni is carrying a much bigger stick than anyone who preceded him.

"The Israelis are doing things that will weaken him (Arafat) in order to further blame him," Palestinian analyst Ghassan al-Khatib told Reuters.

A Palestinian shooting attack that killed two Israelis in the northern city of Afula on Tuesday was likely to harden the Israeli public against any concessions.

Zinni's mission is to implement CIA Director George Tenet's ceasefire plan and a broader blueprint drawn up by a panel led by former US Senator George Mitchell to end the Israeli-Palestinian fighting and return to peacemaking.

Sharon's insistence on a week without violence before implementing the Mitchell and Tenet plans is the first stumbling block that Zinni will encounter.

The precondition gives militants the opportunity to stymie peace efforts by carrying out attacks such as the one in Afula.

"It provides him (Sharon) with a reason not to have to do what the Mitchell report requires because there will never be seven days of quiet," Hazan said. "It's a stalling tactic."

Khatib said the only way Zinni can succeed is by drawing up a timetable that outlines when Israel will freeze settlement construction and carry out other obligations while the sides implement early stages of the ceasefire.

"The sequence will become less significant for the two parties because each will know in advance what they are getting and when," Khatib said.

Hazan said Zinni comes to the region in a better position to deal with both sides' intractability, as US President George W. Bush's administration has a compelling interest in solving the Middle East conflict in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, D.C.

Arab countries, which the United States needs to bolster its anti-terror war in Afghanistan, have criticized the low-profile role taken by Washington since Bush took office in January. The United States is keen to keep them on side.

"All of those obstacles are still there, but Zinni is carrying a much bigger stick than anyone who preceded him. The question is whether he can beat the sides into submission with that stick," said Hazan.

Reuters

Our heroes, heroines and our times

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN my sisters were hanging the Power Puff *piñata* on the ceiling for my niece's birthday party I overheard them asking the driver to place it beyond adult reach. My sister had to explain that a *piñata* was not a *palayok* on a string to be hit by a stick by a blindfolded child. A *piñata* was easier to use because a gentle tug on the string would send the goodies inside to rain on the squealing children. At that point I asked, isn't it more exciting to have a kid hit Power Puff with a stick? Horrified, my sister replied, *gusto mong ma-*trauma *ang mga bata*? She had been to a party where a Winnie the Pooh *piñata* was used instead of a *palayok*. Children cried as the poor bear was beaten till its innards—candies—fell out. If that is the case, I reasoned out, then why not make *piñatas* out of cartoon contravidas? Better still why not teach them current events and have an Erap *piñata*?

All this made me wonder about something my parents called "communication gap" something I know as a "generation gap." Usually this comes in the teen years when both parents and children argue about: loud music, pimples, *telebabad*, curfew time, tattoos, smoking, drugs, nipple rings and pre-marital sex. I never thought I would see a gap between myself and toddlers. A cousin related taking a *balikbayan* to a restaurant for *lechon de leche*. The roast piglet was brought spread-eagled on a tray and without warning the waiter took a plate and began to quarter it. The *balikbayan* children screamed in horror asking, "what are they doing to Babe?" The adults enjoyed the crisp skin as their kids cried. I find "Babe" the movie cute but it won't stop me from enjoying *lechon*, however I must be sensitive to the feelings of children. Now that is both a generation and cultural gap.

If I asked children who their heroes are they will not answer Rizal, Bonifacio, or Aguinaldo. They will answer—Pokemon, Power Puff or even Harry Potter (though some adults show their generation gap by calling him Harry D'Potter, an allusion to an inane Maricel Soriano TV show Mary D'Potter). The world is changing indeed and when I see the toys my nieces play with I start to understand the abstract concepts of globalization, colonization, nationalism, etc. because I see it in my backyard. History indeed communicates a sense of shared identity to citizens, but how do we make heroes of the late 19th century connect with Generation X?

Our roster of heroes—as they stand—lack women. Aside from Gabriela Silang, Teodora Alonso and Josefa Llanes Escoda most of our heroes are men. Worse, children know more about Pokemon than they do about Filipino heroes. While we do not lack heroines they are hidden in history because they did not write very much or left little documentation. Bonifacio being the excuse for today's non-working holiday I re-read the short autobiography of Gregoria de Jesus written in 1928. Oryang was muse (*lakambini*) of the Katipunan, wife of Andres Bonifacio. There is not much detail in her account but reading her own words, translated from the original Tagalog, is a way of remembering the revolution today:

"Some of my important experiences during the Revolution are as follows: I had no fear of facing danger, not even death itself, whenever I accompanied the soldiers in battle, impelled as I was then by no other desire than to see unfurled the flag of an independent Philippines, and I was present in and witnessed many encounters. I was considered a soldier, and to be a true one, I learned how to ride, to shoot a rifle and to manipulate other weapons which I actually used on many occasions. I have known what it is to sleep on the ground without tasting food for the whole day, to drink dirty water from mud-holes or the sap of vines, which, though bitter, tasted delicious because of my intense thirst. When I came to think of my life in those days, considering my youth then, I am surprised how I withstood it all, and how I was spared."

She described keeping Katipunan papers, the seal and sometimes weapons on her person. Literally "clothed with Katipunan papers" she narrated:

"Many times on receiving some warning that the house would be searched by the Veterana police, regardless of the hour, I would immediately gather all the papers, the arms, and the seal, and ordered a *quiles*, and abandoning my meals, for quite often this happened at noon or eight o'clock at night, I would go driving until midnight along the bay front of Tondo and the streets of Binondo in order to save our countrymen from danger. The thing that grieved me, however, was the fact that whenever I asked some friends, whom I expected to be cooperative, for help, they would refuse and even keep away from me knowing that I was carrying dangerous things. News was then transmitted not by telephone but verbally from one man to another, and in this way I knew whether the danger was over and I could go back home for some rest and peace."

With texting, Oryang's life would have been simpler. History not only helps us to appreciate our heroes, but our times as well.

* * *

Next Friday, Dec. 7, at 6p.m., I will be launching two new books "Bones of Contention: The Bonifacio Lectures" and "Meaning and History: The Rizal Lectures" at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati. It is open to the public.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO…?

Hayashi slay case

POPULAR Japanese harpist Tadao Hayashi was found dead in his bedroom in LD Village, Tala, Caloocan City, on July 23, 2001. The autopsy report of the police showed that the harpist suffered three blows to the back of the head, fracturing the skull. Two blows were also delivered to his chest, breaking his collarbone. Blows also shattered his right eyebrow, chin and left ear.

Police focused on the angle that Hayashi, 62, was killed by "someone he knew well" because there was no sign of forcible entry into his home. They also found two glasses on a table in the living room which led them to suspect that Hayashi entertained his killer. (PDI 7/24/01)

Antonio Clet, Hayashi's office assistant and friend, was the one who noticed the unusual absence of light in the harpist's house the night before the body was found. He reported the matter to barangay officials the next day. They all went to the house and discovered the lifeless body. The ceiling fan of the dining area was still moving and a VCD player worth P22,000 was missing.

Witnesses and investigations pointed to Alexander Ylagan, Hayashi's masseur, as the suspect. Thus, the Caloocan City police filed a complaint for robbery with homicide against Ylagan with the Caloocan City Prosecutor's office. Oscar Yu, chief inquest prosecutor, handled the preliminary investigation of the case.

Ylagan denied the charges. He argued that he could not have killed Hayashi since the harpist is his son's godfather. He added that on July 22, he was in his relatives' house in Las Piñas City to do some repair on it.

Yu, citing insufficiency of evidence, dismissed the complaint for robbery with homicide against Ylagan in a resolution dated Aug. 15, 2001. But Chief Caloocan City Prosecutor Ramon Rodrigo reversed Yu's findings and instead recommended the filing of a homicide case against Ylagan.

Case status: On Oct. 31, the appropriate criminal information was filed before the Caloocan City RTC. On Nov. 13, it was raffled off to Branch 126 Judge Luisito Sardillo. The first hearing date has yet to be scheduled. Ylagan is out on bail.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

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Mindanao strategies that never worked

THE PROBLEM in Mindanao will not end with Misuari's arrest, or the election of a Malacañang-sponsored ARMM governor. But it seems that no one in the Macapagal administration is concerned about finding a lasting solution to the rebellion short of genocide.

Previous governments have employed two main strategies to "solve" the Mindanao problem: One, the military solution. Two, the "divide-and-rule" tactic: divide the leadership, select leaders willing to follow the central government and isolate those who cannot be easily controlled. Marcos was the first to adopt these approaches. Three decades have shown that they do not work.

While no one can ignore Misuari's role in the failure of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, it would also be fair to examine the role of the national government. Who designed the ARMM and the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development? Who funneled funds into the hands of MNLF datus? Who ignored crucial provisions in the Peace Agreement and failed to install the most rudimentary framework for autonomy? Thirteen billion pesos later and no *madrasahs* have been set up, no legal infrastructure for the transition to Shari'ah, no local development processes, no anti-poverty agenda for Mindanao. And all the national government can say is that it is Misuari's fault?

The real fault is in the premise that co-opting a few Moro leaders will secure peace and stability in Mindanao. That, in turn, is derived from another fallacious premise: that the Moro struggle is a ruckus created by a few troublemakers, rather than an organized, sustained effort kept alive by the resentments of a disenfranchised and abused people.

With Misuari's arrest, the mass of his followers will simply switch to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front or any other viable organization that promises to advance their cause. That cause has always been self-determination—a goal now proven to be unattainable under the national government's version of "autonomy." The last eight years have made secession even more attractive to the Moros because it looks like only a complete break from the Philippine State will allow them to shape their lives according to their faith.

By all means, subject ARMM funds to an audit so we can all see who really profited from the autonomy bonanza. Chances are, we'll see the names of the very people Malacañang has chosen to co-opt this time around. Chances are, five years from now, the national government (Ms Macapagal's or someone else's), will be denouncing its own protégés for corruption and what-not. Most definitely, it will still be doing combat with a larger, more formidable Moro armed movement.

The only way to avoid that scenario is to implement the Peace Agreement, to take autonomy seriously, to respect the Moros and their struggle.—**JOEL ROCAMORA, president, Akbayan (Citizens' Action Party), 14 Mapagkumbaba St., Sikatuna Vill., Quezon City**

The source of Comelec's troubles

IN GENERAL, I am in agreement with your "Indecent haste" editorial in the Nov. 23 issue, lamenting the sad state of affairs at the Commission on Elections. However, please allow me to make some clarifications concerning certain inaccurate, misleading and erroneous statements.

The editorial said that "Matibag, a pistol-packing lawyer, is allied with the group of Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco which has been at odds with Benipayo and his group."

I have to clarify this statement since it implies that whatever I do is a group consensus, and that any case filed by Matibag against Chair Alfredo Benipayo is the group's decision. The fact that Matibag questioned before the Supreme Court the reappointment of Benipayo and two other commissioners does not necessarily mean that she is acting in behalf of any commissioner who disagree with the dictatorial ways of Benipayo. Matibag acted on her own.

Second, it was not I but Benipayo who specifically stated that the killing of Ms Velma Cinco was work-related.

Your editorial also made the following very disturbing statements and accusations against my person:

"...Congress should step in by setting in motion the impeachment of Tancangco who has been accused of several impeachable offenses in the past, including the mass disenfranchisement of voters in the 2001 elections and graft and corruption. Tancangco has proven to be the biggest single obstacle to the modernization of the electoral system and the smooth functioning of the poll body. She has to go if electoral reforms are to have any chance at all."

I am totally in the dark, about these "several impeachable offenses" that your editorial said I have been accused of. Neither am I aware of any single case of graft and corruption filed against me in any court in the country. As far as I know, it is, in fact, Chair Benipayo who was charged with graft and corruption by a certain Atty. Dante Barcebal.

As for the disenfranchisement of voters in this year's elections, the fact is that it was Chair Benipayo and Commissioner Borra who insisted that the Commission on Elections use the 1998 voters list last May elections instead of the full or partial results of the Precinct Mapping Project.

On the electoral modernization program, it is the Commission en banc that assigned me to be chair of the Modernization Committee before Chair Benipayo came in. For three years, I earnestly endeavored to make the program work starting the May 2001 elections. As early as 1998 and 1999, I started the precinct mapping and voter registration identification projects along with the Automated Counting and Consolidation of Results System. But for reasons of his own, the chair ordered the suspension of these projects without en banc discussion and signing "absent as of 3:50 p.m." over my name.

You must have also read about the controversy concerning the Voter Identification System (VRIS) where a consortium of bidders that includes foreign companies, have complained against the chair, and even filed a case in court, for the delay in the implementation of this aspect of the electoral modernization program.

And how did I become the single biggest obstacle to the smooth functioning of the poll body. The last time I checked, the Comelec was functioning relatively smoothly during the time of former Chairpersons Bernardo Pardo and Harriet Demetriou. When Chair Benipayo came in with his dictatorial ways and blatant disregard of the collegial spirit of the Commission en banc, in many cases issuing decisions unilaterally and without even consulting the other commissioners, the trouble in the Comelec ensued.—**LUZVIMINDA TANCANGCO, commissioner, Comelec, Intramuros, Manila**

Baffled by Filipino logic

I AM a foreigner living permanently in the Philippines with my family. I must admit that I quite often get baffled by Filipino logic which many times is totally alien to the Western mind.

A case in point are the two stories you published last Nov. 25 titled, "Recruit Pinoys, US military urged" and "Ople: Let's go easy on dual citizenship."

The government begs the United States to hire Filipinos to serve in the US military. But Ople says you cannot serve two masters at the same time, i.e. there is a conflict between two nationalities as to loyalty.

Question: Should there be a conflict between the United States and the Philippines whom will the Filipino soldiers fight for? If they refuse orders from their US commanders in time of war they'll be executed. If they fight against the Philippines, they'll get shot too.

Where I come from, serving as a mercenary in a foreign military organization is considered treason. It seems that the government is simply trying to create a new class of overseas Filipino workers.

Also in the Nov. 27 edition of the Inquirer, the reader is informed: "Int'l healing festival held in Pangasinan." The article said that even the director general of the PNP went there. Considering that every healer who performs "operations" with his bare hands and without leaving scars on the body has been shown on European and US TV to be crooks and con artists (I believe it was the National Geographic channel which showed the "artists" at work), my Western mind has great problems as to the seriousness of the believers. But then, nobody asked for my opinion.

Still I hope that such articles will not spread to the international media, for they would be met by a wary shaking of heads by foreign readers or listeners.—**GEORGES L. DAVERVELDT, Provincial Road, Yumbing, Mambajao, Camiguin**

Now a matter 'sub judice'

WE write in response to the article in the column of Mr. Victor C. Agustin, Cocktales, last Friday, Nov. 23, 2001 entitled "Crooked bankers."

Please be advised that the column touched on a matter which is now subject of a case pending in court between Fortune Insurance Corp. and the bank. Much as we would like to enlighten you on the background of the case, we are constrained that it might be *sub judice* for us and the paper to continue discussing the case.

As a bank for entrepreneurs for over 40 years, we continue to pursue delivery of excellent service to our clients based on trust and confidence. Rest assured that the bank has done its own investigation of the matter raised and we would like to state that there has been nothing unusual in the acceptance of the checks whose endorsements were guaranteed by our client. It is unfortunate that the bank's name had to be dragged into this scheme perpetrated by some unscrupulous individuals.—**CORA A. MALLILLIN, first vice president, Asiatrust Bank, Corporate Headquarters Asiatrust Bank Bldg., 1424 Quezon Ave., Quezon City**

Inaccurate and unfair to Bohol

I AM writing to you to express the sentiment of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan and my own personal protest to the apparent ignorance of a regional director of the Department of Tourism (DOT) which is unfair to Boholanos.

In his letter dated Sept. 11, 2001 announcing the opening of the Clark-Cebu route, Director Ronaldo P. Tiotuico of DOT Region III, gave erroneous information which practically betrayed his ignorance of tourism attractions.

Paragraph 3 of the questionable letter said "Cebu is known for its heritage and historical sites, picturesque mountain villages, protected wetlands, its well-known Chocolate Hills and Tarsiers, fishing village in Pamilacan Island (home of 11 species of dolphins and whales), as well as its indigenous arts and crafts."

The Chocolate Hills, the tarsiers and Pamilacan Island are all in Bohol province. Even elementary school children are aware that the Chocolate Hills are in Bohol. How a regional director that is supposed to be the most knowledgeable of tourism destinations could be so ignorant escapes me.

I have nothing against Cebu. I would even say that Bohol should also be grateful to Cebu for benefiting from its tourism industry. However, it is unfair for Bohol if some of its biggest God-given attractions like the Chocolate Hills, the tarsiers and the whale havens in Pamilacan are erroneously marketed as found in Cebu simply because of one man's ignorance.

I have written another letter of protest to Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon on this matter so he can correct this shameful blunder committed by one elevated to a post requiring a wide knowledge on basic geography of the Philippine islands particularly its assets.

I don't believe this is a trivial matter due to human error. We can never tell the exact number of tourists who, because they were misinformed, never get to visit Bohol because this was not adequately provided in their schedules. It is not only the tourists who are deprived of the experience of viewing the said natural endowments who are shortchanged but also the tourism industry in Bohol that is experiencing hard times just like other tourism destinations.—**JULIUS CAESAR F. HERRERA, vice governor, Bohol, Tagbilaran City**

Law firm clarifies

THIS refers to the news article entitled "Telecom exec reveals GMA interest in deal" written by Mr. Carlito Pablo, last Nov. 26, 2001.

The article states, among others, in an affidavit allegedly submitted to the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, Mr. Pacifico Marcelo claimed that ho was pressured to give up his controlling shares in the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc., to wit:

"Marcelo said that a certain lawyer, Jess Manalo, who claimed to represent the Carpio, Villaraza & Cruz Law Office, earlier presented such a proposal to him and his business associate Dante Madriaga.

The law firm's founders include newly appointed Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio and Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino 'Nonong' Cruz."

We wish to clarify that Manalo is not, and was never, a member of our firm. Moreover, Manalo was never authorized by the firm to deal with Marcelo or any of his representatives on any matter.

Further, lawyer Avelino J. Cruz Jr. withdrew from the firm effective Jan. 25, 2001, as required by law, upon his appointment to the Cabinet of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Finally, our firm is now known as Villaraza & Angangco in view of the recent withdrawal from the firm, also as required by law, of lawyer Antonio T. Carpio, who was appointed as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in October 2001.—**RAOUL R. ANGANGCO, Villaraza & Angangco Law Offices, 5th Flr., LTA Bldg., 118 Perea St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City Bldg., 118 Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City**

Clear oversight

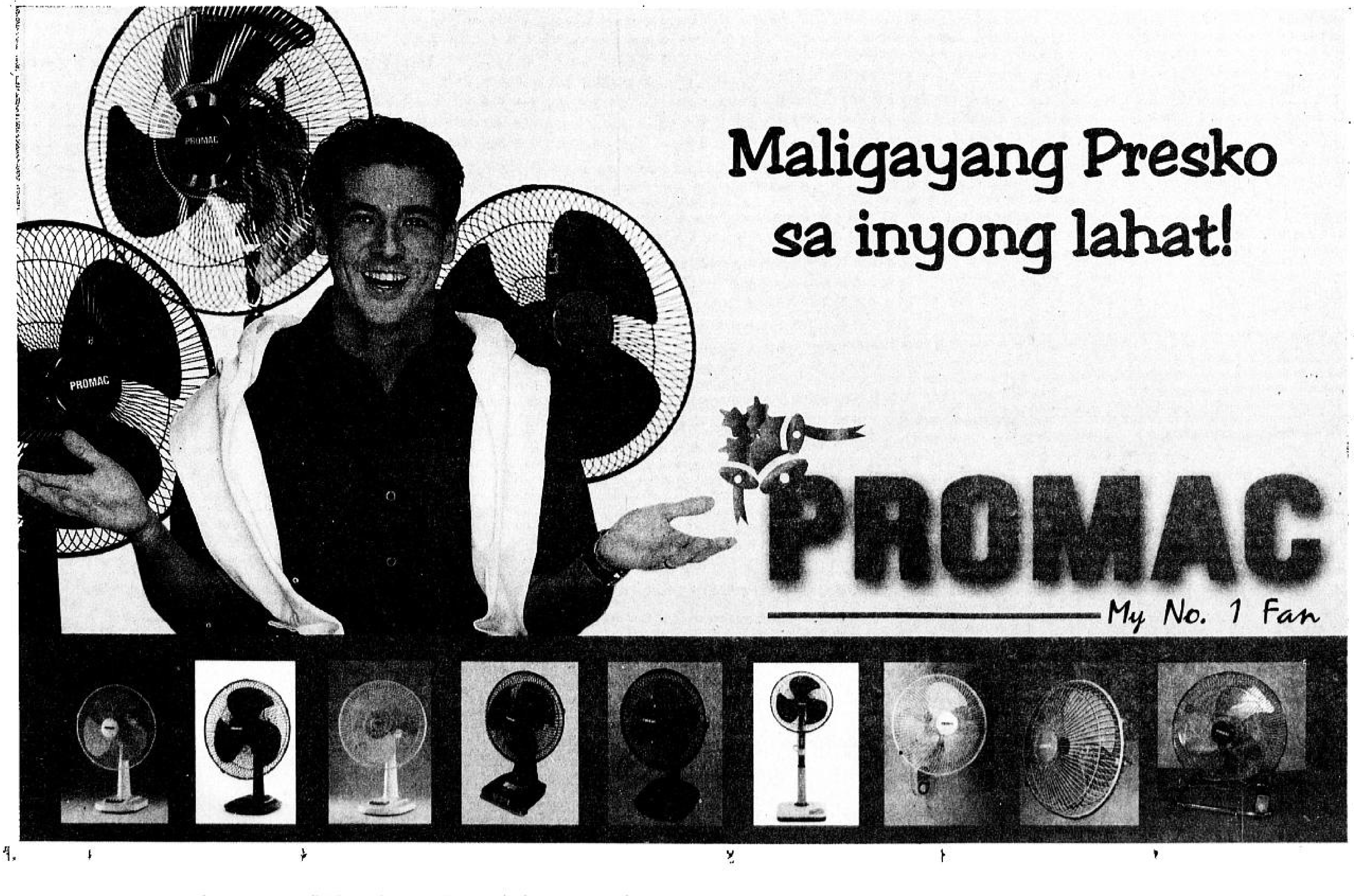
I WOULD like to know why the Inquirer did not have any space in its sports pages of Nov. 11, 2001—the date of the World Featherweight Championship Fight between our very own Manny Pacquiao ("The Last Man Standing," according to our sports journalists) and Agapito Sanchez of the Dominican Republic.

Imagine a World Championship Fight involving a Filipino not given the publicity it deserves. There must be something wrong somewhere, somehow. I, for one, do not believe that there is monkey business going on. But an investigation I think, is in order to dispel doubts.—**DIVINO M. VILLANUEVA, 3 Bulacan St., Quezon City**

WE were not able to send a reporter to cover the fight. The wire services did not run an advance story. The editor on duty forgot to assign the writing of an advance story. We're sorry.—Ed.

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.



'Don't vacate any areas'–Omar

KABUL/BONN—The Taliban's supreme leader urged his forces to stand and fight as US Marines girded for battle and reports of defections suggested his fundamentalist Muslim movement might be crumbling.

Pinned down by American bombing, in the sights of the US Marines and under assault from Afghan tribal foes, the fundamentalist Taliban militia are trapped in their southern stronghold of Kandahar but their supreme leader forbade surrender.

"Don't vacate any areas," said Mullah Mohammad Omar, targeted for harboring Osama bin Laden, chief suspect in the Sept. 11 hijacked airliner attacks that killed almost 4,000 people in the United States.

"This is not a question of tribes," Omar said in a radio message on Wednesday. "This is a question of Islam."

On the battlefront, the US-backed Alliance forces said they had taken back control of a fortress near the northern town of Mazar-i-Sharif where hundreds of captured fighters belonging to Bin Laden's al-Qaida were killed in a revolt put down by US bombing and fierce ground attacks.

The CIA said Johnny Michael "Mike" Spann, 32, who worked for the agency's clandestine service the Directorate of Operations, was killed in the firefight. He was the first US military casualty since the US-led war began on Oct. 7.

Another CIA officer working with Spann, who was armed, managed to escape alive from the riot.

A fresh batch of several dozen troops from the US 10th Mountain Division, trained to fight in rugged terrain, joined Marines on the ground in Afghanistan, the Pentagon said.

CNN reported they would guard the airport at Mazar-i-Sharif.

A US defense official said Taliban troops in southern Afghanistan were "digging furiously" through debris of a leadership compound shattered by US bombs—"an indication to us of the success of the strikes." There was no evidence, however, that senior Taliban or al-Qaida officials died there.

In Islamabad, a Taliban spokesperson said Mullah Omar was still alive and had no idea of Bin Laden's whereabouts.

The Pentagon said its aim was to go after top leaders.

"If we break the leadership of the Taliban and break the leadership of al-Qaida, there is reduced motivation for troops to stay loyal to the cause and continue to fight," Rear Admiral John Stufflebeem told reporters.

The US television network CBS said on Wednesday a number of senior Taliban officials, including the head of military intelligence and at least two government ministers, had defected and were now in Pakistan.

One of the unidentified ministers said he was "fed up" with the "stupid and dangerous ways" of Mullah Omar, CBS reported.

The Taliban's intelligence chief may have defected to the Northern Alliance, a US official said.

Trying to find common ground among the country's quarrelsome factions is the main aim of the talks in Bonn as diplomacy galloped to keep pace with military developments. *Reuters*

A US Marines soldier turns and covers his ears Nov. 28 as another crouches as a third soldier (behind, not seen) drops an 81mm mortar round into the tube and it fires from a mortar platoon position on the perimeter of the Marines forward base in southern Afghanistan. REUTERS

Questions on uprising unanswered

QALAI JANGHI FORTRESS, Afghanistan—The hands of corpses stretching toward the sky, spilt blood mixing with the dust, bullet casings and spent mortar rounds littering fields where horses grazed: no part of this massive fortress was left unstained by death in one of the most ferocious battles of the war on the Taliban.

Full details may never be known of the uprising by Taliban who were being held prisoner at the fortress near the city of Mazar-i-Sharif or of the fierce assault that quashed them. Red Cross workers on Wednesday began carrying bodies away, and with the bodies likely went some evidence.

The questions include how the prisoners got access to weapons, and whether some prisoners were executed as Northern Alliance troops fought the uprising with the help of US air strikes, US special forces and other covert troops believed to be British.

In a field strewn with about 50 bodies, an Associated Press photographer Wednesday saw that many of the bodies had their arms tied behind their backs, contrary to claims by the Northern Alliance commander whose headquarters are in the fort that none had been tied.

Soldiers were seen cutting the bindings off the prisoners using knives and scissors. One soldier used a piece of metal to pry the fillings from a dead man's teeth.

Swaggering through the fortress Wednesday in a long brown robe cinched by a wide black leather belt, Northern Alliance Gen. Rashid Dostum insisted the prisoners were treated properly but had nonetheless revolted against their captors.

"We did not tie them. We brought them here to be safer, he told reporters, as his fighters hung on his every word.

Before Dostum's arrival, commanders around the fortress said they were told not to speak to reporters and that their soldiers also weren't allowed to give interviews.

Notorious warlord

Dostum is one of Afghanistan's most feared and notorious warlords. When his fighters took Mazar-i-Sharif from the Taliban in 1997, they threw prisoners into wells and tossed in grenades to finish them off, the United Nations reported. The Taliban reportedly massacred civilians after they retook the city in 1998.

The uprising at the prison came after Taliban fighters were brought there following the surrender of Kunduz city, the Taliban's last northern bastion. According to Dostum, the first apparent act of rebellion by the prisoners happened Saturday, when a Taliban prisoner detonated a grenade that killed two of his commanders and seriously injured another. Northern Alliance officials said they didn't search the prisoners again for weapons that evening because night fell.

Dostum said he sent another general the next day to visit the prisoners and assure them they would be treated in accordance with international law.

"But they once again attacked my general, threw a grenade, attacked soldiers and took their guns," Dostum said..

Another soldier at the fort Wednesday said he was on the field when the fighting began and that some of the prisoners were tied.

After arriving at the fort, Dostum warned journalists to stay away from the southern section where the prisoners had been held, including the field with the bodies.

He said there were "dangerous people" still at large who "may be lying among the corpses. They are suicidal people and one can expect anything from them."

Northern Alliance soldiers were seen later tossing a grenade into a gutter leading to a basement in one of the buildings inside the compound, presumably to flush out remaining prisoners. Other explosions rang out through the day at the fort sending up clouds of black smoke, some from the many pieces of undetonated ordnance lying around.

About 30 Northern Alliance officers were killed and more than 200 wounded in the fighting, Dostum said. He declined to say how many prisoners were killed, although officials have previously put their number in the hundreds. *AP*

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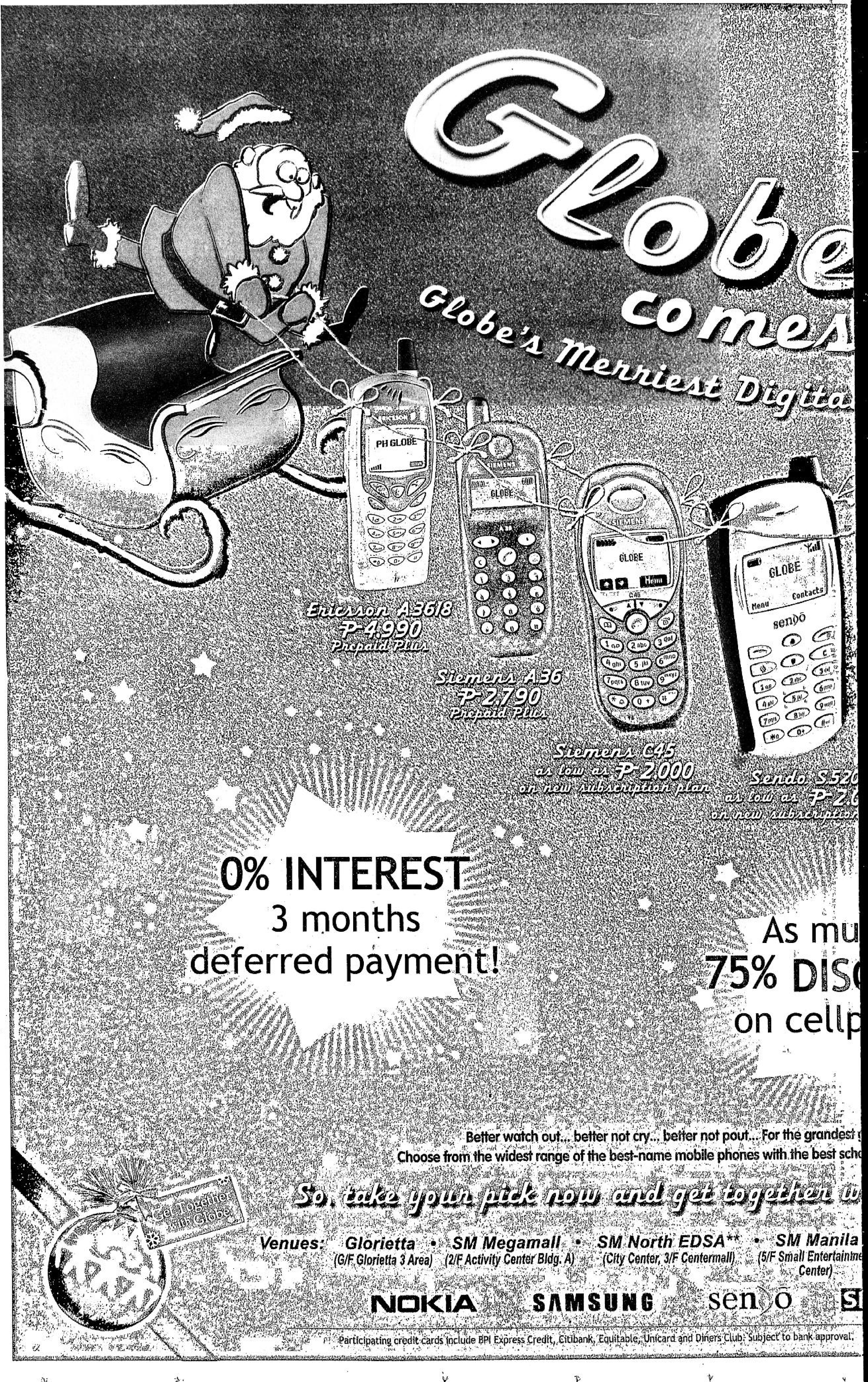
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AIDS 20 years after: 25 million deaths

MOSCOW—Twenty years after it was first identified, acquired immune deficiency syndrome has emerged as "the most devastating disease" in human history, the UN's top AIDS official warned Wednesday.

Not only is the disease continuing to spread dramatically in some of the world's most populous countries, but preventive efforts are clearly failing in parts of the developed world, UNAIDS executive director Peter Piot said.

Presenting the UNAIDS (Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS) annual report ahead of World AIDS Day on Saturday, Piot noted that 25 million people have already died of the disease while a further 40 million are living with the virus that causes it.

And he warned that the situation "will get worse before it gets better."

Among the report highlights that he singled out, Piot noted that eastern Europe including Russia has become the region with the fastest growing infection rate in the world, with some 250,000 new cases reported over the region so far this year.

In Ukraine, he noted, the infection rate has reached one percent of the population, this being "the first time any European country has reached such a level," while there also emerging epidemics in the republics of central Asia.

The disease is centered on the young, with more than half the sufferers aged 20 or under, he said.

On the brighter side, Piot said there were "positive signs of growing political commitment," with several countries in the region increasing their budgets devoted to overcoming the epidemic.

But overall, the AIDS situation worldwide "has really got worse," he warned.

"In China, it's clear there are now well over one million people infected with HIV, while in Asia the number of newly infected people this year exceeded one million. For the first time, we are seeing a real acceleration in the spread of HIV," he said.

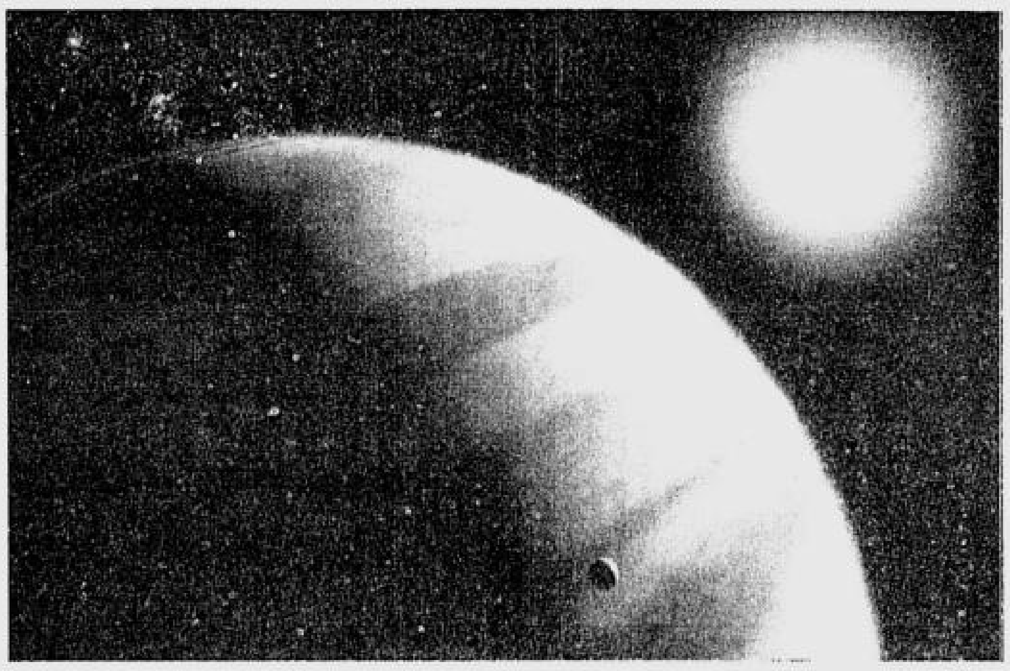
"What's most worrying is that in some of the world's most populous countries—China, India, Indonesia—there is a serious threat of the epidemic becoming more general."

The AIDS epidemic is continuing to spread through Africa, though in some countries less rapidly.

The effects on the economy and social fabric of countries suffering a full-blown epidemic are "absolutely mind-blowing," he said.

Piot pointed to a sharp increase in new infections in high-income countries in North America and Western Europe, signaling, he said, "a clear failure of preventive efforts."

The emphasis being placed on treatment and on "medicalizing the response to AIDS" in these countries—which "do not have the excuse of not having enough resources"—means that ``prevention is being neglected, . . . and the price we will have to pay for this neglect is very high," he said. *AFP*



UNIQUE PEEK REUTERS

Astronomers using the Hubble Space Telescope have made the first direct detection of the atmosphere of a planet orbiting a star outside our solar system. Their unique observations demonstrate that it is possible with Hubble and other telescopes to measure the chemical makeup of alien planet atmospheres and to potentially search for the chemical markers of life beyond Earth. The planet orbits a yellow, Sun-like star called HD 209458, located 150 light-years away in the constellation Pegasus. This artist's impression of the gas-giant planet orbiting the yellow, Sun-like star HD 209458, 150 light-years from Earth was released by Nasa on Nov. 27.

North Korea threatens to take 'countermeasures' against US

SEOUL—North Korea on Thursday threatened to take unspecified countermeasures unless the United States changed its "hostile" policy toward the communist state.

"We can no longer just sit back. We have no choice but to take countermeasures with the United States persistently raising questions over our human rights record, religion, and demanding an inspection of weapons of mass destruction," a North Korean foreign ministry spokesperson said.

The "hostile attitude" of the US government showed it had no intention of entering into dialogue, even though it has declared itself ready for talks without preconditions, the spokesperson was quoted as saying by South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

The spokesperson also lamented that Washington still listed North Korea as a nation sponsoring terrorism, even though he said Pyongyang had adopted an anti-terrorism stance.

North Korea condemned the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States but has said it opposes the US-led retaliation in Afghanistan.

"It is absurd for the United States, which puts the yoke of a 'terrorist sponsor' upon us, to call for our cooperation in anti-terrorist activities," the spokesperson also said through North Korea's Chungang radio.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il has said Pyongyang would immediately normalize ties with Washington should the United States lift North Korea from its blacklist of states backing terrorism.

The spokesperson criticized the US for demanding an inspection of the North's weapons of mass destruction while neglecting Pyongyang's demands for compensation for delays in the construction of light-water reactors.

President George W. Bush this week called on North Korea to permit foreign inspectors to verify that it is not producing weapons of mass destruction, and warned Pyongyang to halt foreign missile sales.

Much-delayed construction began in earnest only in September on two nuclear power reactors in North Korea that will produce less weapons-grade plutonium than the communist state's old reactors, which were closed under a 1994 accord.

The new reactors were originally to be built by 2003 but delays, including the withdrawal of half the North Korean workers over a wage dispute, have pushed back the finish until at least 2008.

"All these facts show it has become virtually impossible to settle problems through dialogue," the foreign ministry spokesperson said.

Yonhap, the official monitor of North Korean news media, said the protests reflected Pyongyang's frustration over its lack of progress with the US in attempts to come out of decades of isolation.

The news agency noted that the latest foreign ministry comments failed to repeat Pyongyang's long-held stance that it is not opposed to holding talks with the United States and wants to develop ties. *AFP*

Indonesia police begin questioning Suharto son

'TOMMY'

JAKARTA—Police began questioning the millionaire son of ex-dictator Suharto for allegedly ordering the murder of a top judge, as senior officers congratulated themselves on the capture of the man who eluded them for more than a year.

Two dozen officers involved in Wednesday's arrest of Hutomo Mandala Putra, widely known as "Tommy," received promotions in a ceremony at national police headquarters.

The force had been widely criticized for the way it handled the manhunt, which at times over the last year descended into farce. Critics even accused some members of the security forces of hiding the country's most wanted man.

Many newspapers focused on the timing of the capture, pointing out that the arrest coincided with the final day in office of national police chief Gen. Suroyo Bimantoro.

Bimantoro himself was quoted as saying that the arrest should be regarded as his "swan song." President Megawati Sukarnoputri was scheduled to officially install his replacement, Gen. Da'i Bachtiar, later Thursday.

"This result did not fall from the sky but was from real effort," said Bimantoro, acknowledging the police had put up with "ridicule from various quarters."

Police said they would charge Tommy for ordering the murder of Supreme Court Justice Syafiuddin Kartasasmita, the man who sent him to jail last year over a land scam that cost the state the equivalent of $11 million.

They also plan to question him over the illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Jakarta Police Chief Maj. Gen. Sofyan Yacob said on Thursday officers were interrogating Tommy and he could be held in custody for up to 20 days.

Tommy fled from justice last year after he was sentenced over the graft charge, which was later overturned—much to the chagrin of many anti-corruption crusaders—by the Supreme Court.

At a chaotic news conference on Wednesday, senior officers paraded their catch for the media.

"At the right time, I will clarify," a relaxed looking Tommy said in answer to a reporter's question about the charges against him.

Adding to confusion about the turn of events, Tommy's lawyers denied he had been captured, saying their client chose to surrender.

Tommy was the first member of the superrich former first family to be convicted of corruption. Last year, charges against the elder Suharto, 81, were dropped after he claimed to be too ill to face trial. *AP*

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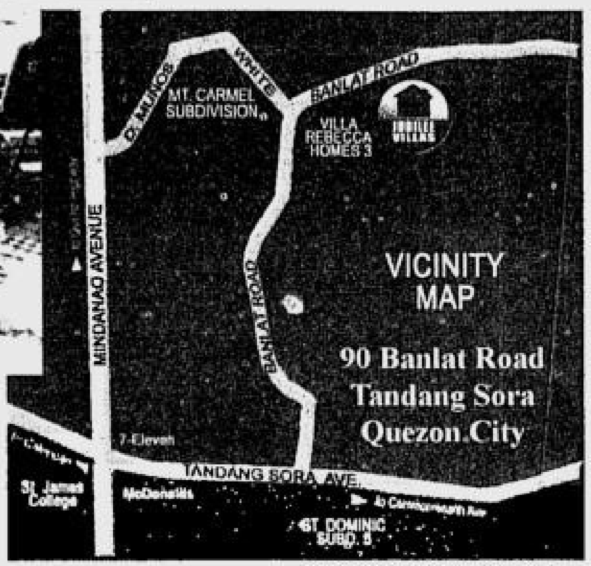

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ARMM poll leader won't do a Misuari

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA AND PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

NO Misuari.

Parouk Hussin, the administration candidate who is leading in the gubernatorial race in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, yesterday vowed not to follow in the footsteps of outgoing Gov. Nur Misuari.

Hussin said he was "not crazy" to do the things Misuari did, and does not intend to initiate "very ambitious projects" that are of no use in the region.

The National Movement for Free Elections quick count showed that as of 2:15 p.m. yesterday, Hussin had garnered 229,937 votes in Monday's ARMM elections, compared to Ebrahim Paglas III's 99,930, his closest opponent.

Another administration candidate, Mahid Mutilan, was leading the race for vice governor with 226,644. Following him is Benjamin Loong with 94,847.

The count has covered 42 percent of election returns from Basilan, Lanao del Sur (including Marawi City), Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

Delayed canvass

The Commission on Elections in Manila, however, is still awaiting the certificates of canvass from the five provinces and one city, which are already delayed by two days due to bad weather and security problems.

Jose Joson, Comelec deputy executive director, said canvassing was ongoing in the provinces, but he doubted if the Dec. 1 deadline set by the Comelec for the proclamation of winners will be met.

Allegations of massive poll fraud continued to fly in the region, with the administration being accused of buying votes for its candidates.

"How can somebody who does not have money buy votes?" Hussin, a member of the 15-man executive council leading the Moro National Liberation Front, said in a phone interview yesterday.

"I don't know about the others, but I ran the campaign honestly and honorably," he said, adding he had "no control" over those who bought votes.

Hussin said he has learned from the mistakes of Misuari, who was ousted from the MNLF leadership early this year and whose followers recently attacked Sulu and Zamboanga to stop the holding of the elections.

He said he would actually govern the ARMM, "unlike Misuari who spent most of his time somewhere else" without giving due attention to the depressed territory.

No 10-lane highways

He said he did not intend to build 10-lane highways on an island as small as Jolo, which the ousted MNLF leader had earlier planned, ignoring more pressing poverty concerns.

"I will take note of all his mistakes, and I'll make sure that I won't repeat them," said Hussin, who had said that the Bangsamoro people had been unhappy with Misuari's leadership of the ARMM.

In Basilan, a fishing boat full of Army soldiers tasked to retrieve ballot boxes from Lamitan town capsized near the coastal village of Semut in Tuburan around 1 a.m. yesterday.

Col. Francisco Gudani, deputy chief for operation of the military's Southern Command, said Navy boats were immediately sent to the area to rescue the soldiers, who belong to the 18th Infantry Battalion.

"They were rescued and brought back to their unit," Gudani said.

The soldiers were sailing for Dangkalan in Lamitan from Tuburan to retrieve remaining election paraphernalia when their boat met big waves, strong winds and heavy rains.

Special election

In Cagayan de Oro City, Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra said he would be recommending the conduct of a special election in Lumbatan, Lanao del Sur.

No elections were conducted in the town after municipal treasurer Gazanarra Balt failed to appear, along with the election materials.

Lumbatan has 6,181 registered voters, but Borra said the results of the special elections would not have much effect on the outcome of the gubernatorial and vice gubernatorial races. *With reports from Julie Alipala, Grace Cantal-Albasin and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 21°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 22° Lo 12°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 17°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 19°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 17°
Legazpi	Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Bacolod	Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Rains	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Loyosa, PDI Research/11/29/01

ROUNDUP

Ex-convict shot dead

OROQUIETA CITY—Suspected communist hit men shot and killed a former convict in Tudela, Misamis Occidental on Sunday. Two other persons were wounded when they were hit by stray bullets. Killed was Jesus Jerusalem, 32, of Barangay Colambutan Settlement while those were Pacundo Apao, 69, and Jose Bellosillo, 71. Police said they had yet to establish motive for the attack.
Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Radioman ordered nabbed

DAVAO CITY—A local judge ordered the arrest of a radioman who came late for a hearing on a libel case filed by Rep. Prospero Nograles. Judge William Layague of the Regional Trial Court Branch 14 also ordered the forfeiture of Joseph Gipala's P5,000 bail bond in favor of the government. Gipala, manager of Bombo Radyo's dxMF, arrived at the courtroom at 9:05 a.m. Monday just as Layague was ending the hearing. He is among several media persons sued by Nograles for dxMF's broadcasts of his alleged relationship with a former television talent. Gipala's lawyer contested the judge's order, claiming his client was delayed due to traffic.
Anthony A. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Abused girl sues pa

CANDELARIA, Quezon—Police arrested on Thursday a father who allegedly turned his 14-year-old daughter into his sex slave for almost four years. In her testimony, the victim said she could no longer bear her ordeal and revealed it to her relatives in Tayabas, Quezon, who helped her file a criminal complaint against her father. The suspect is now detained at the municipal jail here. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NPA rebel surrenders

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—A suspected New People's Army rebel surrendered to the 204th Infantry Brigade based in Roxas town in Oriental Mindoro last Monday. Alexander G. Gadon, alias Ka Bert, 23, of Barangay Mariano, Roxas, turned over an M-16 rifle. The military said Gadon was a member of the NPA's "Plager Dust 2," which operates in the Roxas-Mansalay-Bulalacao area and led by a certain Larry Obsequio, alias Ka Morris. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Wanted man falls

LUCENA CITY—Police arrested the most wanted crime suspect in this city in a surprise raid on his hideout on Monday. Supt. Police said Christopher Abustan, 21, of Barangay Gulang-Gulang here, had long been wanted for murder and assault of an agent of authority. Judge Stephen Cruz of the regional trial court here issued the warrant for Abustan's arrest. No bail was recommended. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Corn trader shot dead

CANDELARIA, Quezon—Unidentified persons shot and killed a businessman who was on his way to buy corn in a plantation in Barangay Malabanban Norte here. Investigation showed that the victim, Norly Bragais, of Barangay Isabang, Tayabas, Quezon, and his two other companions were walking toward the corn plantation when two armed men suddenly appeared from behind the victim and shot him several times in the head. The victim died on the spot.
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bonifacio rally today

CALAMBA, Laguna—Some 2,000 protesters from three militant groups will stage a rally today at the Calamba junction to commemorate the birthday of hero Andres Bonifacio. The groups are the regional chapters of the Sanlakas and the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, and the newly formed Laguna Coalition of Urban Poor. Lourdes Monterey, Sanlakas-ST spokesperson, said the rally would be part of the national protest against poverty and the "malignant corruption epidemic" under the Macapagal administration. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Benguet braces for 'cañao' rituals

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Ibaloi elders are preparing a series of ritual *cañaos* from December to May next year to relocate 70 graves of their ancestors in Itogon, Benguet, as the controversial $1.2-billion San Roque multipurpose dam project nears completion.

Itogon Vice Mayor Aloysius Kato said the National Power Corp. set June as the deadline for developers to fill up the San Roque dam's 148-heotare reservoir, where all 70 graves are located.

"Most of the *cañaos* (Cordillera feasts) will be personal activities, but we expect very grand ones. The oldest gravesites are of the elder Aritao clan, which will require a very expensive set of rituals, while the common ones will require no more than a chicken or a pig as offering. But this is a breakthrough for government," Kato told the INQUIRER.

Government auditors are monitoring this latest development very keenly.

Government expropriation cases for ancestral lands—where vital state projects are under way—often involve compensation and unusual requirements which COA may not necessarily approve, said Sabiano Cabatuan, Cordillera director of the Commission on Audit, in an earlier interview.

Among the costs government is compelled to shoulder are the ritual *cañaos*, which accompany the transfer of Igorot ancestors buried in these lots, the transfer of whole houses and artifacts, and even gifts.

"These are the real costs which government will have to guarantee us once they desecrate a genuine ancestral land property," said Joseph Jude Carantes, heir of Ibaloi elder Maximino Carantes who is buried in a land now being claimed by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza).

Carantes said the transfer of a revered ancestor can take weeks, will involve costs as high as P100,000 for each *cañao*, and must follow the whims of the ancestors' ghosts.

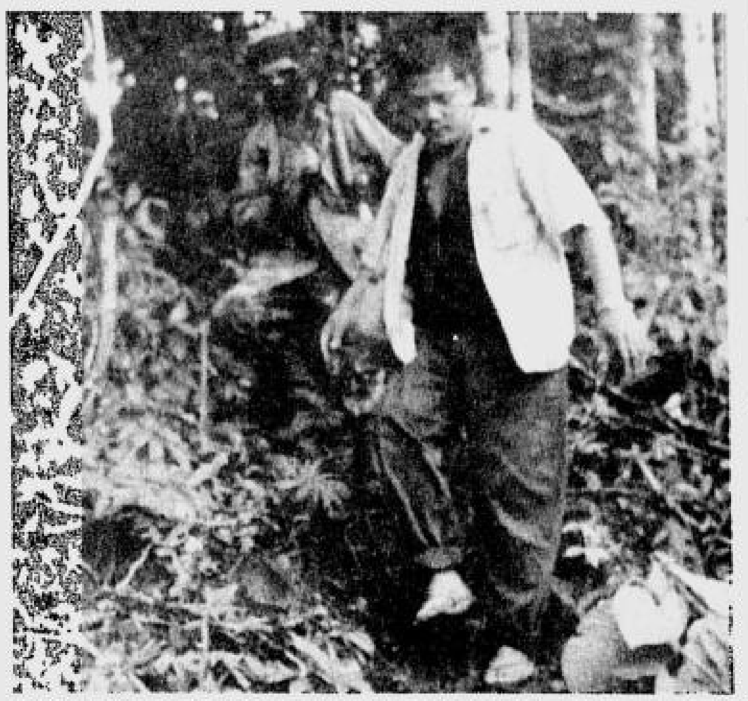
"What's even more painful is when the ghosts, that usually make their presence known to heirs through their dreams, refuse to leave the area? Will government accept that? Will government respect our beliefs?" he said.

Kato said the Benguet government also encountered audit questions when provincial appraisers tried to fix the cost of a ritual *cañao* for people who will be displaced by the dam.

"It took the (Ibaloi) elders of Benguet to try to explain these (gray areas) although they also could not decide on every issue. They helped us validate the (genuine) ancestral burial sites there in Itogon. But the truth is each grave has a different ritual and a different set of (expenditures)," Kato said.

He noted that at least two burial sites in Itogon are found inside ancestral caves, which require sensitive rituals.

But he said the elders and residents finally agreed to accept a uniform P50,000 package for every grave that will require immediate relocation.



FREEDOM TRAIL KRISTINA CASSION/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Cpl. Alexander Nuvillo, who was captured by the New People's Army's Bob Ruiz Command in northeastern Mindanao during an ambush six days ago, is escorted on his way to freedom by a rebel. He was released to the International Committee on the Red Cross in the hinterlands of Bislig, Surigao del Sur, on Wednesday.

NPA targets priests, minors

QUIRINO, Isabela—For their supposed influence in their communities, priests are being targeted by New People's Army rebels in their recruitment activities in Cagayan Valley, an Aglipayan priest here said.

"If they can recruit priests, many people will believe their cause and join them," said Franklin Franada, 21, a theology graduate of the Msgr. Gregorio Aglipay Theologian Seminary in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

His statement has boosted military intelligence reports that the NPA is recruiting not only minors but also priests and other church workers.

Franada said he had talked with the rebels here during the early 1990s when they visited his village.

Aside from members of religious groups, the NPA is recruiting minors and young activists, according to intelligence reports from the Army's 5th Infantry Division.

Capt. Antonio Diego, chief of the 5th Infantry Division's civil affairs unit, said the reported recruitment of priests and minors showed "how desperate the NPA rebels are in trying to get members."

Fr. Gregorio Uanan, Catholic diocesan chancellor, downplayed the report, saying "it was only a coincidence that the Church, the Catholic Church for instance, is opposing projects that we perceive are depriving and oppressing people, which our brothers and sisters from the underground movement also oppose."

In Baguio City, an Army intelligence officer said at least 16 of the 46 known NPA combatants in Mt. Provipce are minors.

Citing intelligence reports, Maj. Elmer Quiros, chief of the Civil Relations Service for Ilocos and the Cordillera, said the NPA in Mt. Province recently recruited 16 boys and girls.

Quiros said some of the reports of missing youths reached them and when they investigated some of these cases, they learned that at least four had joined the NPA. *Villamor Visaya Jr. with a report from Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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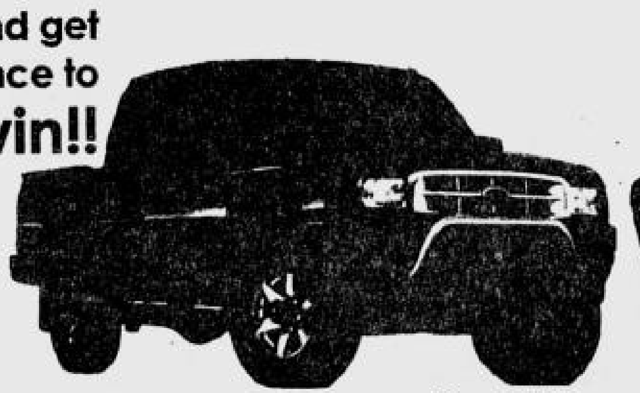

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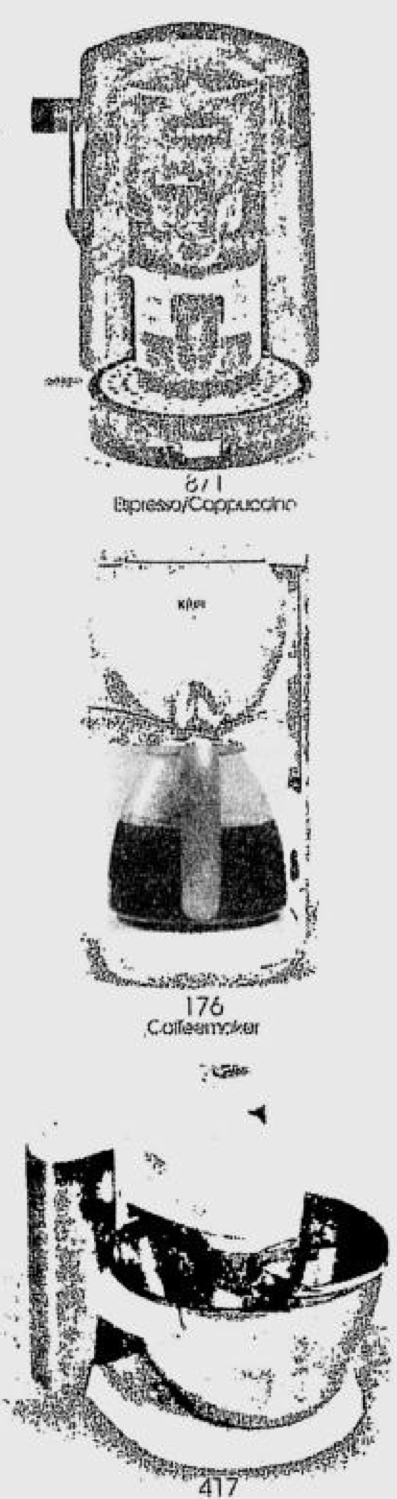

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Peace advocates march in Butuan; covenant signed

BUTUAN CITY—Around 3,000 placard-bearing *lumads*, Christians and Muslims marched here yesterday, joining other sectors in calling for peace in Mindanao.

The rally culminated with a prayer for peace and the signing of a peace covenant.

Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos of the Diocese of Butuan said the activity was part of the celebration of the Mindanao Peace Week, which is aimed at breaking common prejudice among Christians, Muslims and *lumads*.

This prejudice has led to armed conflicts based on experiences, he said.

Although the rally might not directly solve the problems of the people, Pueblos said it would at least help in finding a solution to the decades-old problems besetting the country.

Mamarin Tarasuman, an *aleem* (Muslim religious leader), said he hoped that the spirit of peace would reign in every Muslim, Christian and *lumad*.

Tarasuman said discriminations against Muslims have contributed much in the war that has undermined their vision for a united Mindanao.

Datu Ibanta Morada, who represented the Mamanwa tribe, said unity among the *lumads*, Christians and Muslim was badly needed to address conflicts that hamper development, especially for his impoverished tribesmen.

The Peace Week, which will end on Dec. 5, also includes a forum-workshop on peace, visitation to mosques and churches, and a consultation-dialogue for advocacy.

In Davao City, Bishop Felixberto Calang of the Philippine Independent Church in Southern Mindanao said "there is chaos and injustice from all corners of Mindanao."

He cited the "massive militarization" of *lumad* and farming communities in Northern and Southern Mindanao, the threat of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, and the "Misuari-led anarchy in the ARMM in Western and Central Mindanao." ***Ma. Kristina E. Cassion and Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Davao City execs support ₱125 wage increase

DAVAO CITY—The city council on Tuesday passed a resolution urging Congress to approve a P125 across-the-board wage hike for private workers and P3,000 legislated wage increase for the public sector.

The move earned the council applause and cheers from militant labor groups, teachers and workers who were watching the proceedings.

Councilor Angela Librado, who proposed the measure, said the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board (RTWPB) can no longer be relied upon to ease the burden of the workers.

She cited the board's recommended increase of P25.50 in 1999, P26.50 in 2000, and P27-30 this year.

Councilor Danilo Dayanghirang, however, claimed that the council should think twice about the measure and its possible repercussions.

He said businesses in the region were already having a hard time surviving and have resorted to "multi-skilled hiring and right-sizing" in order to stay afloat.

"Why don't we approve a resolution not specifying any amount but specifying our support for any wage increase?" he said.

Dayanghirang said the measure could become the official stand of the city and could result to retrenchment of workers later on because of closures of businesses.

But Librado said that contrary to claims made by businesses, "a substantial wage hike will not necessarily force companies to shut down or retrench workers."

She cited labor statistics that states that only 2.3 percent of the 937 firms, which closed down from January to April cited minimum wage rate as their main reason for their decision.

"It is imperative for Congress to approve the wage hike law to regain the purchasing power of the peso and to give immediate economic relief for 16 million workers and their extended families," she added.

The resolution was approved by a majority vote. Two council members abstained.

Alvin Luque, vice president of Bayan Muna-Southern Mindanao, said the resolution could influence other city and provincial councils in Mindanao to pass a similar measure.

"This is really a historic moment for us," he said.

Militant labor groups are expected to hold a march-rally today to demand a wage increase. ***Joel Escovilla and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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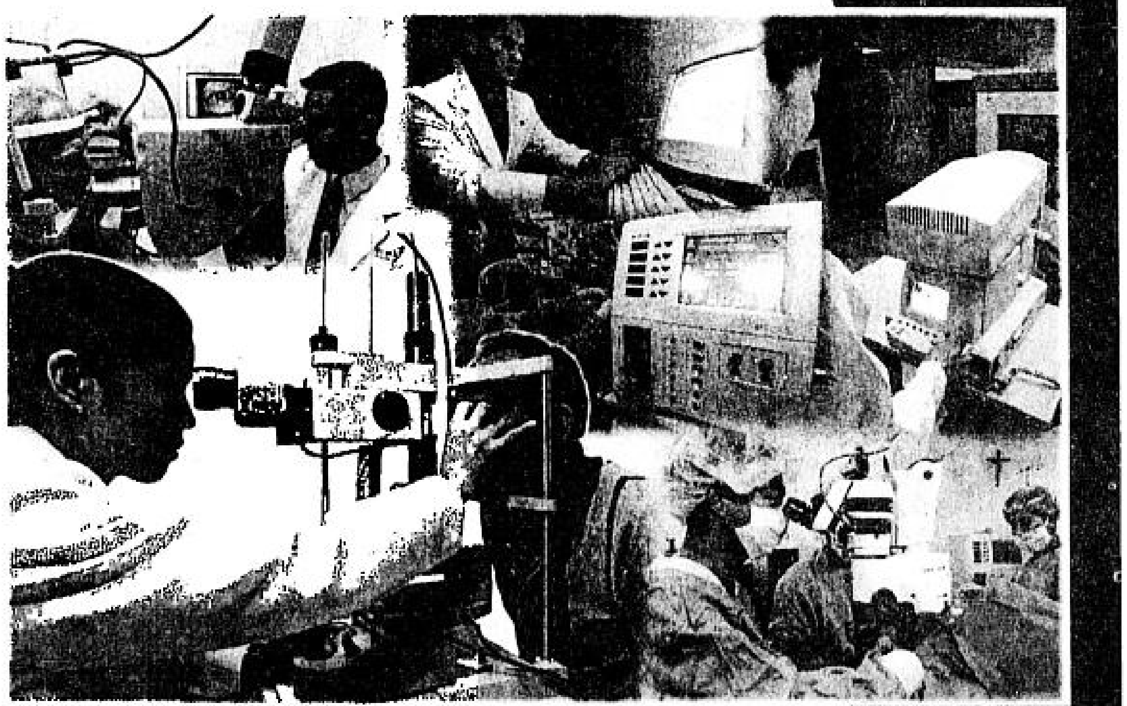

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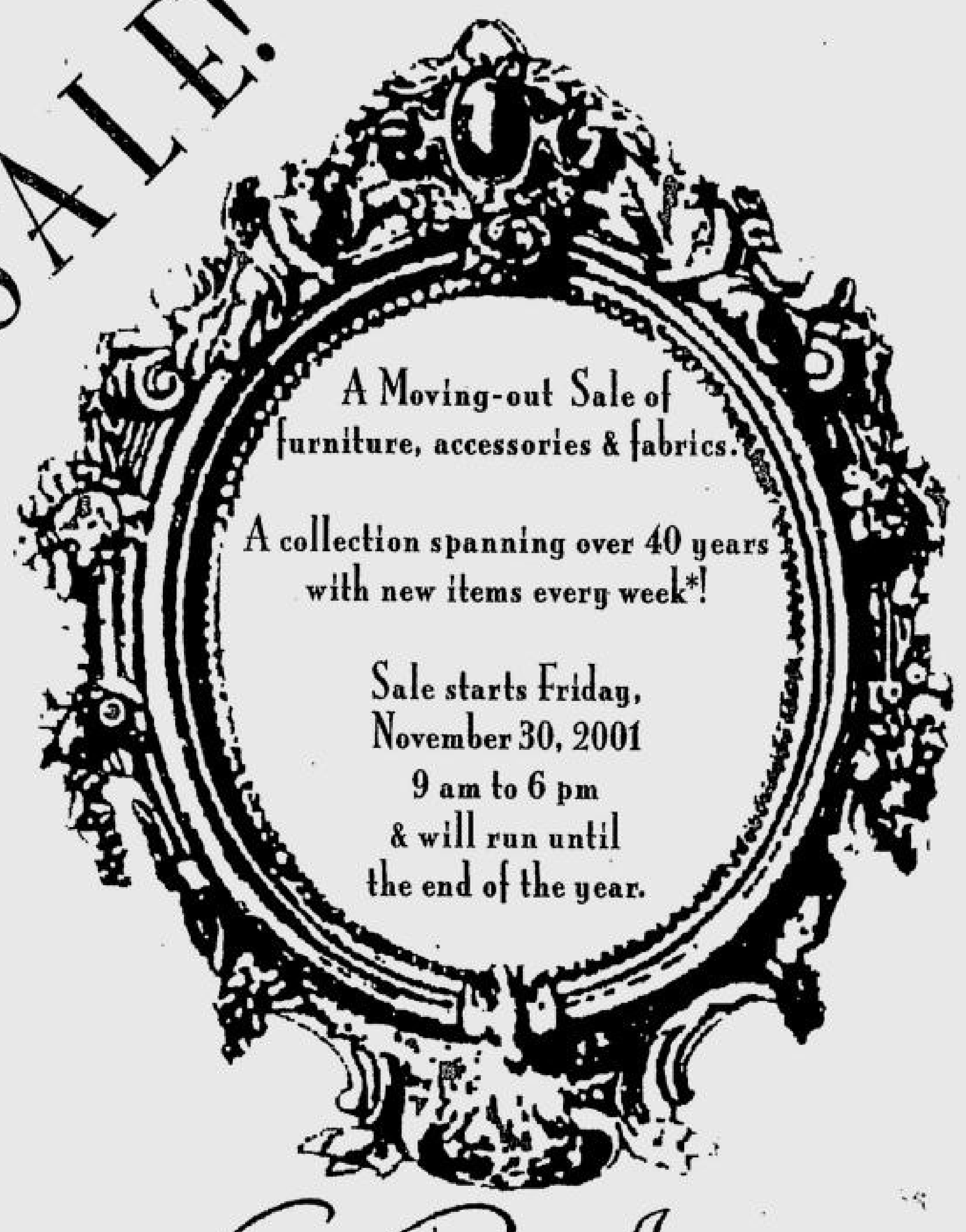

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Amerasian cited for honesty

ANGELES CITY—For the first time, an Amerasian will be conferred the Kalakbay Award by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Dec. 7 for his honesty.

In August last year, Amerasian Maurice Bishop Lopez returned a wallet containing different foreign currencies worth P200,000.

The wallet belonged to a Korean guest at the Phoenix Hotel here where he works as a helper. He was mopping the floor when he found the wallet. Without delay and without expecting any reward, he returned it to its owner. He got a hearty "thank you" from the Korean.

Pampanga Rep. Francis Nepomuceno was too pleased with Lopez's honesty that he gave him P3,000. The hotel management, proud of having a trustworthy employee around, gave Lopez P2,000 and assured him continued employment.

Lopez, 31, is not only eager to receive the award given to people and organizations that live out positive leadership values.

"It's rare for Amerasians to be recognized," he chuckled.

It would also be a chance for him to meet the President and to call attention to the difficult plight of children sired and abandoned by American soldiers stationed in the former military bases in the country.

When he gets to see Ms Macapagal in person, he plans to hand to her a resolution from his group, the National League of Amerasians.

"We did not have such opportunity so I would give Ma'am the resolution during the awarding. Perhaps, she'll allow me," he said.

The league, as well as caregivers of Filipino Amerasians, following their first national conference in January, wants the government and the private sector to support issues that concern more than 50,000 Amerasians.

Most of them live in Olongapo City, located next to the former Subic Naval Base. Some are in Angeles City near the former Clark Air Base, Metro Manila and Cebu.

The league wants policies passed against discrimination in schools and workplaces, Lopez said.

"Being the illegitimate children of US soldiers, we encounter myriad forms of legal, social and economic discrimination throughout our lives," the league said in a report. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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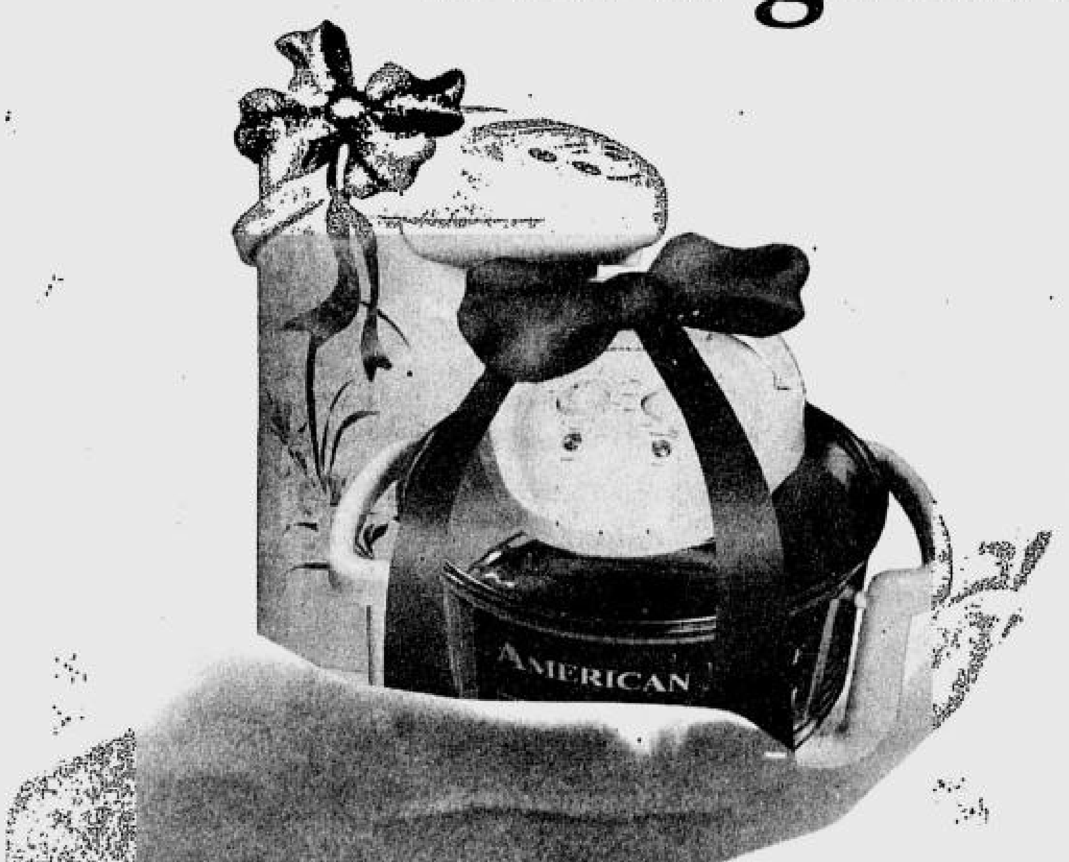

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Microwave oven	AMW210LE, 218LE & 219LE	0.02 cu.m. (0.7 cu.ft.) Electronic Panel	P6,499.00		P1,083.17	
Refrigerator*	GS 2182NKGW	0.59 cu.m. (21 cu.ft.) Side by Side	P62,000.00	P20,666.67		
Refrigerator*	GS 2588PKDW	0.71 cu.m. (25 cu.ft.) Side by Side	P76,000.00	P25,333.33		
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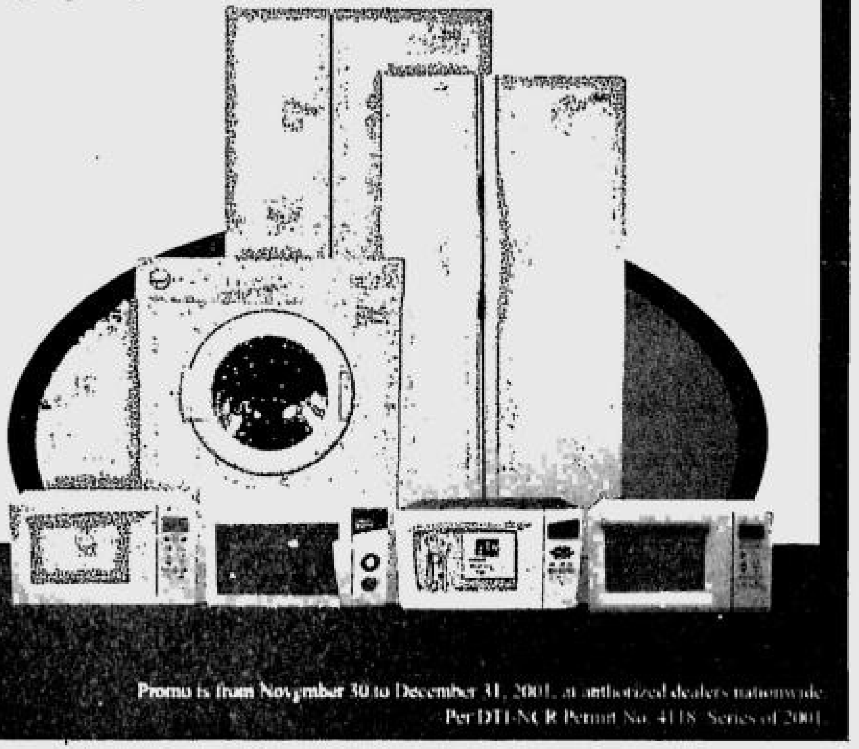

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Palace to strip Marcelo of seat in Philcomsat board

(From page A1)

tion the businessman purportedly owed to Jaime Dichaves.

Dichaves, a close associate of Estrada, was the one who tried to claim ownership of the Jose Velarde bank accounts during Estrada's impeachment trial in the Senate last year.

Dichaves is believed to be the real owner of Marcelo's Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) and APC Wireless Interface Network, whose congressional franchises were vetoed by Ms Macapagal.

Tiglao said Marcelo's appointment to the Philcomsat board was proof that his only qualification in the telecommunications business was his close association with Dichaves.

This fact should be highlighted, according to Tiglao, because "that's exactly what we've been saying: Mr. Marcelo is an attack dog of the opposition."

"He's been linked to the Estrada administration," Tiglao said. "Estrada himself wrote a letter that it was his wish to have Mr. Marcelo as board member of Philcomsat."

"Now who is Mr. Marcelo? The only qualification he had was his close association with Dichaves," Tiglao said.

Tiglao's office later issued a letter of then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora dated Sept. 5, 2000 addressed to Magdangal Elma, then chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Zamora's letter said it was the "President's (Estrada's) desire" that Marcelo, Federico Agcaoili, Edgardo Villanueva and Carmeo Africa Jr. represent the government in Philcomsat. Marcelo was No. 1 on the list of nominees.

New nominees

Tiglao said the Palace would name its new representatives to the Philcomsat board as soon as Ms Macapagal finished vetting the nominees.

"We wanted to coordinate with the PCGG on the changes of the membership of the Philcomsat board," Tiglao said.

In a sworn statement he submitted to the Senate, Marcelo said Ms Macapagal wanted to gain control of PCCI, an allegation strongly denied by the President.

Tiglao warned opposition congressmen against exploiting Marcelo's charges against Ms Macapagal by initiating an impeachment case.

"Make our day," Tiglao dared opposition lawmakers. "*Mapapahiya lang sila* (They will be shamed)."

Malacañang had earlier said that Marcelo may have violated the Anti-Dummy Law by owning two telecommunications firms despite having acquired an American citizenship.

Sources close to Marcelo said the businessman became an American citizen in 1995 but renounced it later when he decided to come back to the Philippines.

Court decision

Marcelo's legal counsel Vic de la Serna said he would elevate to a higher court the decision handed down by Branch 34 of the Manila Regional Trial Court denying his client's petition seeking to nullify a BID order inviting Marcelo for questioning about his citizenship.

De la Serna said mission orders could not be used to arrest an individual.

On Nov. 26, Bureau of Immigration and Deportation agents, armed with the mission order, tried to arrest Marcelo when he went to the Senate to submit his sworn statement accusing Ms Macapagal of trying to take over his company.

The intercession of opposition senators prevented Marcelo's arrest at the Senate.

Asked about the real citizenship of his client, De la Serna said, "Mr. Marcelo has reacquired Filipino citizenship in 1997."

NBI probe

An NBI source said the bureau had subpoenaed documents from the Securities and Exchange Commission, the National Telecommunications Commission, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The NBI has also asked for the minutes of the congressional hearings on Marcelo's case.

The source said the NBI wanted to find out if Marcelo had put in the documents that he was a Filipino. The source added that other incorporators in Marcelo's telecom firms would be interviewed to find out if they knew of his alleged crimes.

NBI Director Reynaldo G. Wycoco said his men had received Marcelo's travel documents and itineraries from the BID, which showed that the businessman was an American citizen.

He said the BID wanted Marcelo investigated for claiming that he was a Filipino. Philippine laws prohibit foreigners from owning majority shares in local telecom companies.

In the Senate, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel denied that Marcelo was an "attack dog" of the opposition.

"They can use all kinds of rhetoric, but the bottom line is whether Mr. Marcelo was telling the truth," he said.

"I will give him all the chance to validate what he says, and allow the other side to rebut his allegations. That is what fairness is all about," he added.

Let him testify

Pimentel said Marcelo must be given a chance to substantiate his allegation that the President had demanded a 51-percent stake in PCCI.

The senator stressed that he would not accept the affidavit of Marcelo linking the President to the telecommunications franchise scam hook, line and sinker just because he was with the opposition.

Pimentel said Malacañang's attempt to prevent Marcelo from testifying fueled speculations that it was trying to hide something.

The senator disclosed a plan of minority senators to call for the creation of a committee to investigate Marcelo's allegations.

Pimentel said the special committee was needed because of the "hesitance" of Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, to pursue the inquiry.

In the House of Representatives, Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said that the Senate should not focus on the alleged dual citizenship of Marcelo. Instead the Senate should investigate the businessman's allegations against Ms Macapagal.

For his part, Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said he would insist next week for the House to conduct its own investigation of Marcelo's allegations.

Dilangalen delivered a privilege speech the other day calling for the inquiry but the House failed to act on it after it decided to adjourn its session due to lack of quorum. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Christine Avendaño and Gerald G. Lacuarta*

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DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
CEBU	5J - 557	Daily	0130	0240	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999
	5J - 559	Daily	0500	0610			
	5J - 561	Daily	0700	0810			
	5J - 563	Daily	0900	1010			
	5J - 565	Daily	1100	1210			
	5J - 567	Daily	1300	1410			
	5J - 569	Daily	1500	1610			
	5J - 571	Daily	1700	1810			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 573*	Daily	1800	1910			
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	0430	0610	P3,307	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 963	Daily	1000	1140			
	5J - 965	Daily	1220	1400			
	5J - 967	Daily	1500	1640			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 969*	Daily	1700	1840			
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	0510	0635	P3,295	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 383	Daily	0930	1055			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 385*	Daily	1100	1225			
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	0610	0720	P2,718	P2,419	P1,999
	5J - 655	Daily	1210	1320			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 657*	Daily	1400	1510			
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	0505	0605	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 455	Daily	0955	1055			
	5J - 457*	M/W/F/Sun	1320	1420			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 459	Daily	1600	1700			
BACOLOD	5J - 473	M/W/F/Sun	0510	0610	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 473	Tu/Th/Sat	0620	0720			
	5J - 475	Daily	1000	1100			
	5J - 477*	Tu/Th/Sat	1320	1420			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 479	Daily	1640	1740			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	0520	0650	P3,295	P2,639	P2,399
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	0530	0630	P2,279	P1,979	P1,649
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	1340	1450	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	0900	0950	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 558	Daily	0320	0430	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999
	5J - 560	Daily	0700	0810			
	5J - 562	Daily	0900	1010			
	5J - 564	Daily	1100	1210			
	5J - 566	Daily	1300	1410			
	5J - 568	Daily	1500	1610			
	5J - 570	Daily	1700	1810			
	5J - 572	Daily	1900	2010			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 574*	Daily	2000	2110			
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	0800	0850	P2,339	P2,039	P1,649
*Will be operated every Mon Wed Fri from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 597*	Daily	1450	1540			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	W/Th/Sat	0905	1000	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	1750	1825	P1,799	P1,599	P1,399
BACOLOD	5J - 126	M/W/F/Sun	0810	0840	P1,599	P1,399	P1,199
CLARK	5J - 588*	M/W/F	1050	1210	P2,995	P2,669	

*Will be operated DAILY starting 14 Dec 2001

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	0720	0900	P3,307	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 964	Daily	1220	1400			
	5J - 966	Daily	1440	1620			
	5J - 968	Daily	1720	1900			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 970*	Daily	1920	2100			
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	0930	1020	P2,339	P2,039	P1,649
	5J - 598*	Daily	1620	1710			
ILOILO *via Cebu	5J - 598/164*	M/W/F	1620	1825	P3,295	P2,839	P2,549
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	Tu/F/Sun	0910	1010	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799

ORIGIN: CLARK

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
CEBU	5J - 589*	M/W/F	1300	1420	P2,995	P2,669	

*Will be operated DAILY starting 14 Dec. 2001

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	0715	0840	P3,295	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 384	Daily	1135	1300			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 386*	Daily	1305	1430			

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	0800	0910	P2,718	P2,419	P1,999
	5J - 656	Daily	1400	1510			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 658*	Daily	1550	1700			

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 456	Daily	1135	1235	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 458*	M/W/F/Sun	1510	1610			
	5J - 460	Daily	1740	1840			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 462	Daily	1905	2005			
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	0645	0720	P1,799	P1,599	P1,399
DAVAO *via Cebu	5J - 161/593*	Daily	0645	0850	P3,295	P2,839	P2,549

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 474	M/W/F/Sun	0930	1030	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 474	Tu/Th/Sat	0810	0910			
	5J - 476	Daily	1150	1250			
	5J - 478*	Tu/Th/Sat	1510	1610			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 480	Daily	1830	1930			
CEBU	5J - 125	M/W/F/Sun	0700	0730	P1,599	P1,399	P1,199

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 852	Mon	0730	0900	P3,295	P2,639	P2,399
	5J - 852	Tu-Sun	1050	1220			
CEBU	5J - 432	W/Th/Sat	0730	0825	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799
DAVAO	5J - 394	T/F/Sun	0730	0830	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	0710	0810	P2,279	P1,979	P1,649

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	1530	1640	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	1030	1120	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999

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		5J - 118	Daily	1640	1840
HONG KONG	**MANILA**	**5J - 113**	**Daily**	**1150**	**1350**
		5J - 119	**Daily**	**1940**	**2140**

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(From page A1)

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The signatories also agreed that a joint government and private sector audit be conducted on the coco levy funds.

The coconut levy was collected as a forced tax on coconut farmers from 1973 to 1982. An initial levy of P15 per 100 kilograms of copra was imposed starting Aug. 10, 1973.

Talks on an out-of-court settlement, which go back to the previous administration, are focused on the P50 billion in levy funds constituting 27 percent of San Miguel Corp.

The chairmanship of SMC was reacquired by Cojuangco in 1998 upon the election of his close friend and protégé Joseph Estrada.

Ang's input welcome

Tiglao said Malacañang would welcome Ang's input on how to finally resolve the longstanding row over the funds.

"He will give us feedback on what different farmer groups want as an agreement," the presidential spokesperson said. " Everybody's input will be taken in their proper context."

Ang is the publisher of the tabloid Kabayan and the broadsheet Manila Times. He is also the chair of RPN 9, a government-controlled TV network, and director of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

DANTE ANG: Only a "referee."

LOBREGAT: Convinced by Cojuangco.

COJUANGCO: Invited to join negotiations.

Ang said the farmers themselves proposed the settlement, as they wanted to benefit from the fund after 15 years of waiting.

He said he personally preferred a settlement because the funds had been locked in litigation for several years. before the Sandiganbayan.

Ang assured that the deal would not result in the levy being declared public or private fund.

"As to the matter of it being declared public or private funds, we are leaving it up to the courts to decide. But while no decision has yet been made on the matter, we will let the farmers benefit from it," he said.

Bishop Capalla

Ang said Davao City Archbishop Fernando Capalla, imams and religious groups called the meeting in Davao to help finally resolve the coco levy issue.

He said the farmers asked him and Capalla to help convince Lobregat to agree to the deal. At first, Lobregat was against the deal, fearing that it might result in the funds being declared private.

It was Capalla who decided to get Cojuangco into the negotiations, according to Ang. Cojuangco later convinced Lobregat to accept the farmers' proposal.

"You'll have to thank Danding for this," Ang said.

Sneer

But Linda Olaguer-Montayre, secretary general of the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA), sneered at the deal, saying the list of the supposed signatories was taken from an "attendance sheet" of the meeting.

Montayre said Capalla was fooled into believing that the deal had the go-signal of PCGG chair Haydee Yorac.

Montayre had earlier said that the President and her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo were allegedly angling for a P20-billion commission from a deal with Cojuangco.

Montayre said Arroyo, the President's brother Diosdado Macapagal Jr. and presidential adviser Norberto Gonzales were the ones talking with Cojuangco, a claim strongly denied by Ms Macapagal.

In his regular afternoon briefing. Tiglao again lashed out at Montayre. who also claimed to have a witness who could corroborate claims that the Macapagal administration was forging a compromise deal with Cojuangco.

Tiglao dared Montayre to bring her witness to Malacañang. "We will gladly give her air time," he said.

Hitting Montayre, a former nun, Tiglao said: "I don't know why she left the sisterhood."

"She's just becoming a loudspeaker for the opposition," Tiglao said.

He said Montayre's supposed evidence was nothing but hearsay.

Militant groups are giving Montayre the benefit of the doubt.

Pamalakaya, a fisherfolk group, called for an investigation by an independent body of allegations that Ms Macapagal was conniving with Cojuangco to reach a settlement in exchange for P20 billion in commission.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said Malacañang had no right to keep secret its negotiations with Cojuangco.

"What did the President and Cojuangco talk about? Have they forged an agreement? What are the implications of this agreement—the conditions? Malacañang should be transparent and answer these questions," Beltran said.

He said the coco levy issue had been dragging on for years, "at the expense of thousands of coconut farmers whose hard-earned money was funneled into the fund." ***With a report from Gerald G. Lacuarta***

Irate Zambo folk hack dead Moro reb

(From page A1)

responsible for Akrab's death.

"If they say they were responsible, the MRG might go after them," Yanga said, referring to what the military called the "Misuari Renegade Group."

Col. Alexander Yano, commander of Task Force Zamboanga, said charges would be filed against those found to be Akrab's killers.

"They will be treated as criminals," he said. "Their action was plain and simple murder, even if the victim was an MNLF rebel."

Yanga said Akrab's comrades were being pursued. At press time, they had been sighted in Barangays Capisan and Pumukutan and in Upper Dulian in Pasonanca.

He also announced the arrest of two other rebels and the discovery of another dead MNLF fighter yesterday.

Those arrested are now in police custody. "We might get substantial information from them," Yanga said.

Afraid

Some residents of Pasonanca have taken shelter at the barangay hall for fear of getting caught in the crossfire as soldiers combed the village for MNLF members.

Several Misuari loyalists were also sighted in Barangay Sta. Maria, about 1.5 km from Cabatangan.

Chief Insp. Vicente Salvador, Sta. Maria police precinct commander, said the retreating rebels were probably heading to Zamboanga del Norte.

"The MNLF renegades have been inquiring from residents of Dulian of the route to Zamboanga del Norte," Salvador said.

Police said the group headed by Julhambrie Misuari remained camped in Barangay Mala near Taquiti until late afternoon yesterday.

Military and police sources said it was not clear what the group was planning as the rebels appeared "relaxed."

But a source told the INQUIRER that the rebels were waiting for a Navy boat that would transport them to Jolo, Sulu.

Cimatu said some of the gunmen who took part in the siege on Cabatangan were from the Abu Sayyaf, which is holding hostage an American couple and a Filipino woman in Basilan.

PEOPLE power hacked this Misuari loyalist to death as furious residents of Cabantangan, Zamboanga City, took the law into their hands.

VAL HANDUMON

"We have information that around 30 of them are Abu Sayyaf members," Cimatu said. "It seems that (the Abu Sayyaf) had been using the Cabatangan Complex as sanctuary every time we launched operations against the group in Basilan and Sulu."

Agence France Presse said the military recovered guns, grenade launchers, improvised anti-personnel mines and homemade bombs after clearing Cabatangan for booby traps and mines.

"The Cabatangan Complex has been cleared," Col. Darwin Guerra, acting spokesperson of the Southcom, declared after the clearing operation.

Security remained tight in Zamboanga as Army troop carriers and soldiers patrolled the streets.

But shops and businesses, as well as the Zamboanga airport near Cabatangan, reopened. Philippine Airlines said it would resume flights to the city by Saturday.

Volatile

Malacañang defended the decision of the Southcom and government officials in Zamboanga to allow Misuari's followers to get away with their firearms after taking hostage hundreds of people.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the crisis committee did the right thing given the volatile situation.

"There were 59 (hostages)," Tiglao said. "If just one gunshot was fired, everyone could have been killed, even the hostages. The military was a bit apprehensive that even some Zamboanga residents may have armed themselves. You should appreciate the (volatility) of the situation. We have to congratulate our crisis committee for defusing the situation."

The crisis committee is composed of Cimatu, Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat and chief peace negotiator Jesus Dureza.

Reports said the rank and file of the military and police had been "demoralized" by the committee's decision.

But Tiglao denied this and said the hostage-taking in Zamboanga further showed that Misuari had lost control over the MNLF forces.

"The report to us was that those who joined him were mainly his relatives. We understand (that in) the culture of the MNLF, (relatives will always be supported). There is no longer a movement," Tiglao said, adding:

"We've been told by some people that Misuari has substantial command over the MNLF. But (based on) what happened in the past 10 days, he has apparently thrown out everything he can.

"He expected the (MNLF) integrees to defect to his side, but they didn't. (So he) had to get the support of the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu for his attacks. Which means that Misuari no longer has control over the mainstream MNLF."

Not perfect

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes admitted that allowing Misuari's followers to leave Cabatangan with their firearms was "not a perfect solution."

But this, he said, was better than the killing of the hostages or the development of another crisis that would affect the country's economy and security.

"So we averted that, and that, definitely, is a plus sign," Reyes told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo. "It was not a perfect solution, so we will have to continue and address this problem insofar as the remaining few MNLF renegades are concerned."

Reyes also said the decision further isolated the renegade group from mainstream Muslim groups.

He said the "real" MNLF, headed by its 15-man committee, and other Moro leaders had started to talk about the thinning out of the Misuari group.

"What happened is that (Misuari) engaged in adventurism. He miscalculated his cards, he overplayed it, and that brought death and devastation," Reyes said.

Asked how the military would now deal with the Misuari group, Reyes was evasive.

"You have to wait if you want to see our next move," he said. "Much more remains to be done, but under the circumstances, it was the best thing we could do."

Eduardo Ermita, the President's adviser on the peace process, was quoted as saying that the MNLF men given safe passage out of Zamboanga were being watched and that unspecified measures had been taken to contain them.

"We cannot just say that because they were allowed safe passage, they will go scot-free," Ermita told radio station dzRH. ***With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan***

'Iwas paputok' launched

(From page A1)

tials, there will likely be less firecracker-related injuries and deaths this Yuletide because they cannot anymore afford to buy firecrackers.

In fact, the Department of Health may want to revise its long-running "*Iwas Paputok*" slogan into "*Iwas Gastos, Iwas Paputok.*"

"Economic hardship is probably going to be the biggest factor in a downturn in New Year injuries," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said during yesterday's launching of "*Oplan Iwas Paputok*" 2001.

He pointed out that because of the economic crisis last year, firecracker-related injuries went down by 15 percent to only 1,325 cases. And health officials hope the number of injuries will go down by half this year.

"We are confident that we could do better this year, specially now that the country is experiencing another economic fall. Spending for these dangerous firecrackers and pyrotechnics is a luxury for most of us," Dayrit said.

Other DOH doctors present during yesterday's launching agreed, noting that even Christmas lights and lanterns were lacking in most homes this year.

Still, the DOH is not taking chances and will push hard in its campaign to warn the public to refrain from using firecrackers.

As was done by his predecessors, Dayrit will also come out with television and radio advertisements, warning people of the momentary joys of firecrackers and its subsequent usually long-term pains.

Dayrit also vowed to work for the amendment of the implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act 7183, the law regulating the sale, manufacture, distribution and use of firecrackers, to include a ban on the sale of *watusi* which has killed a lot of children who ate them.

He said the DOH National Epidemiology Center recommended a ban on *watusi* in January, but it had yet to be acted upon by concerned authorities.

For his part, Director Ricardo de Leon, head of the Philippine National Police directorate for operations, warned people against picking up unexploded firecrackers. He noted that many firecracker injuries occur after the height of Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations, when children play with firecrackers that failed to explode.

De Leon also said the PNP would continue monitoring policemen to ensure that they don't fire their weapons during the New Year and Christmas revelries.

Last year, he said, one policeman and 27 civilians were caught firing their guns in Metro Manila. The policeman was dismissed from the service.

'OIC could intervene on Misuari's behalf'

(From page A1)

the sword of Damocles hanging over the government's head, Dimaporo said yesterday.

He pointed out that if the government intended to restore peace in Mindanao, it had "no choice" but to drop the planned rebellion charges against the suspended governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and grant him immunity from prosecution.

"The government wants to get rid of Misuari but it cannot (do so). For as long as Misuari is alive, he will always be recognized by the Moro National Liberation Front and the OIC," Dimaporo, whose province is part of the ARMM, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He said that even if Misuari were to be exiled to a foreign land, the peace and order problem in Mindanao would remain because "the MNLF is in the homeland."

In Malacañang, Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, urged Malaysia to deny asylum to Misuari and prevent him from seeking refuge in other countries.

"We've made our position quite clear—that Misuari is a fugitive, he's facing charges here and cannot be given political asylum," Tiglao told reporters.

"We would not want any country to give him political asylum," he said, directing his comments in particular at the 57-member OIC.

Tiglao said Malaysia had assured the Philippines "that they would not allow Misuari to be taken in by a third country" although, he said, there were reports that certain countries were "more than prepared to take him in."

He also said the President was sticking to her pronouncement that Misuari would face the full force of the law for instigating the Nov. 19 attack in Jolo, Sulu, that killed at least 113 people.

"(According to) the policy guidelines we have from the President, charges will be filed against (Misuari). If the Malaysian authorities are finished with him, he will have to be deported back here and face trial," Tiglao said, adding:

"Many people died, even soldiers. We have to face them. We have to implement the justice system."

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. said the other day that Misuari would be given some "leeway if he cooperates with the peace agreement."

Misuari, 60, fled to the eastern Malaysian state of Sabah last weekend and was held for illegal entry.

But Dimaporo said, "the government has no choice but to give him immunity because if it insists on filing rebellion charges against him, then nothing will change."

He said a grant of immunity might persuade Misuari to come back to the country. Asked what the government would get in return, he said: "Then they will be talking peace again."

OIC

Dimaporo said the best approach to the Misuari problem was for the government to elevate it to the OIC ministerial level, meaning the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Libya, Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia, Senegal and Somalia.

"They cannot solve this at the local level," he said, adding that the OIC or the government could initiate the discussion.

But he quickly noted that the government might not take the initiative because this would be "a slap in its face."

Dimaporo also said one of Misuari's men informed him the other day that the renegade governor was still in Sabah. But he said it would be difficult to confirm this or the rumor that Misuari had fled to Saudi Arabia unless a government representative made the actual confirmation.

No 'quid pro quo'

Tiglao stressed that "there's no quid pro quo" between the Philippines and Malaysia over the Misuari case.

"It will be more convenient if he is kept in Malaysia, which is obviously an ally within (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations)," he said.

He also said the Philippines was ready to arrest Misuari "if the Malaysians think that he would have to be deported as soon as possible."

He expressed confidence that the security situation in the Moro heartland in the South should stabilize soon to allow the judicial process to take its due course.

In Kuala Lumpur, Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday that Malaysia would deport the rebel leader as soon as the Philippines was ready to receive him.

"We don't want to keep him for too long," the official Bernama news agency quoted Abdullah as saying.

Defense Minister Najib Razak said on Wednesday that Malaysia would not allow Misuari to leave and seek political asylum elsewhere even if there were countries willing to accept him.

Reports reaching the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said Malaysian police had started questioning Misuari regarding last year's attack by the Abu Sayyaf on the Malaysian dive resort of Sipadan and the abduction of mostly foreign tourists there.

The reports also said Malaysian police were tightening border security in light of the possibility that Misuari's supporters in the MNLF would try to slip into Malaysia.

"Police are not ignoring any possibilities or threats from his followers. So far, there have been no incidents related to Misuari's arrest," Malaysian newspapers quoted Malaysian police inspector general Sri Norain Mai as saying.

DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros told reporters that Misuari was now "in the hands of the Malaysian government" and that the Philippines would not intervene in any way with the investigation.

Estino

In Zamboanga City, former Sulu Vice Gov. Hadji Munib Estino said he was not on the run but was making sure that "the authorities will have a hard time finding me."

A military intelligence report has named Estino as the appointed chief of staff of the Misuari "renegade forces" that attacked Jolo on Nov. 19.

In an exclusive interview earlier this week, Estino said he did attend the Bangsamoro Congress in Sulu on Nov. 3 but that he was a "gatecrasher."

He said he never even got near the makeshift stage in Silangkan.

Estino showed ferry tickers bearing his name and dated Nov. 19 to show that he was in Zamboanga City at the time of the attack.

He showed as well a document indicating that he had a mission order from the Zamboanga police also issued on that date.

He also said a dental record would likewise support his claim that he was not part of the group that attacked Jolo.

Estino, however, admitted that he met with Misuari, who asked him this question in Filipino: "What do you think will our people's reaction be if trouble erupts?"

By Estino's account, the meeting took place a day after the Bangsamoro Congress.

"I told him that our people, especially those in Sulu, will experience hardship if there will be trouble," Estino said.

He also said that based on an initial intelligence report from his men in the field, the Nov. 19 attack was "not Misuari's handiwork."

Estino also lamented that the government seemed to have forgotten his "contribution" to the resolution of previous hostage crises in Sulu.

As vice governor, Estino was instrumental in the release of a number of foreigners and Filipinos taken hostage starting in 1992. Among these were two Spanish nuns in 1992 and the two crew members of a TV network kidnapped in Patikul last year.

He was also credited for the safe recovery of American Jeffrey Schilling from the Abu Sayyaf.

Estino admitted that he was in touch with Misuari, but said this did not mean that he was helping the latter. ***With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Norman Bordadora, Arlyn dela Cruz, AFP***

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Anand bounces back

MOSCOW—Defending champion Viswanatahn Anand on Wednesday came back from a first-game loss to the Fide world championship's lowest-seeded player, defeating France's Olivier Touzane in the first round's second game and then beating him in the playoffs. Anand advances to the second round of the tournament. Each round consists of two games, with rapid and blitz playoffs as tiebreakers if necessary. *AP*

Lyceum, St. Francis prevail

LYCEUM and St. Francis of Assisi College remained on top of their respective divisions after prevailing anew in the NCRAA basketball tournament at the Philippine Maritime Institute gym yesterday. The Pirates dealt AMA (1-2) its second straight loss with an 80-62 rout to share the Group A lead with De La Salle-Manila with 2-0 cards. The Doves, meanwhile, clobbered PATTS College of Aeronautics (1-2), 82-58, to remain atop Group A.

SMB WAITING

Pop goes for the kill vs Sta. Lucia

BY JUNE NAVARRO

GAME TODAY (Ynares Center)
7p.m.—Pop Cola vs Sta. Lucia Realty

Game 1—Pop Cola d. Sta. Lucia, 76-75
Game 2—Sta. Lucia d. Pop Cola, 76-69
Game 3—Pop Cola d. Sta. Lucia, 86-76

ALMOST nothing will be altered on Pop Cola's battle plan against Sta. Lucia Realty when it goes for the kill to nail a Finals' seat today in the PBA Governors Cup at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

Enjoying a 2-1 edge in their best-of-five series, the Panthers will try to make one last defensive stop against the Realtors at 7 p.m. in a bid to return to the Finals since they won the second conference crown in 1995.

"We will employ the same strategy. Contain Damien Owens and their big men from wreaking havoc inside the paint," said Pop Cola coach Chot Reyes.

Working behind a superb defensive stance, the Panthers limited the flashy Owens to just 12 points and stopped Marlou Aquino from patrolling the middle during their 86-76 win while shooting efficiently from the outside.

A victory tonight would most probably end these mishaps but a bigger problem lies ahead as the Panthers will face San Miguel Beer in a best-of-seven championship series.

The Beermen swept their semifinals encounter with the Shell Turbo Chargers and automatically advanced to the Finals via a 92-88 overtime victory Wednesday night.

Asiad tryouts

PBA COMMISSIONER Jun Bernardino and National Team coach Ron Jacobs is calling on all interested players coming from the MBA, PBL, UAAP and NCAA to attend the tryouts scheduled to start on Dec. 10.

Most coaches OK Jacobs choice

BY JUNE NAVARRO

MEMBERS of the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines in the PBA are torn between the group's opinion and their personal views on the assumption of San Miguel Beer consultant Ron Jacobs as Asian Games head coach.

In a poll conducted by the INQUIRER, majority of the coaches agreed that Jacobs has what it takes to steer the team to victory in the Pusan, South Korean meet next year, a complete reversal from what BCAP president Andres Narvasa Jr. had stated the other day.

"As a director of the BCAP, I support our stand," said Pop Cola coach Chot Reyes. "But personally, Ron (Jacobs) is an excellent choice and there's no better coach fit for the job."

Narvasa said on Wednesday that Jacobs' appointment created an impression that no Filipino coach, in the PBA or any other basketball league in the country, is capable and talented enough to steer the PBA-backed national team to a gold-medal finish.

Shell's Perry Ronquillo also departed from the BCAP's conviction, stressing the move of the PBA to name Jacobs for the job reflects national interest, which goes beyond the confines of the league and the sport itself.

"As basketball-loving Filipinos, we should set aside our differences and support the programs of Jacobs because it is a tough job. It's for the country and not just for the PBA," said Ronquillo.

Ronquillo and Red Bull's Yeng Guiao, along with Jong Uichico of San Miguel Beer, were among the aspirants included in the PBA's short list of candidates before Jacobs was named to the position.

"No hard feelings. To be considered a candidate is already an honor. And besides, I lost to a better man," added Ronquillo.

LBC, Lhuillier eye 2-0 advantage

GAMES TODAY: San Juan Gym
3 p.m.—LBC Batangas vs Andok's San Juan
USLS Bacolod
5:30 p.m.—Cebuana Lhuillier vs Negros

AFTER posting scary victories over their respective rivals, the LBC Batangas Blades and Cebuana Lhuillier Gems try to be more convincing when the MBA Second Phase conference finals resume today at separate venues.

The Blades tackle the Andok's San Juan Knights at 3 p.m. at the San Juan Gym, eyeing a 2-0 lead that would put it within a win of the Northern Conference crown.

The Gems seek the same advantage over the Negros Slashers in their own best-of-five series for the Southern Conference title at the USLS Gym in Bacolod City.

The Blades blanked the Knights in the homestretch of Game One to prevail, 85-76, Wednesday night at the La Salle Lipa Sentrum.

Romel Adducul and Alex Compton lived up to their role as Blades' saviors that time, coming through with the decisive points in the last three minutes while helping their teammates shut down the Knights.

The absence of ailing playmaker Chito Victolero finally told on the Knights in the fourth quarter as they played without direction, especially when Adducul and Compton went to work.

With the Sentrum unavailable, however, the Blades were forced to request for a 1-2-2 finals format instead of the usual 2-2-1 that would have been more advantageous for them.

Still, LBC Batangas coach Nash Racela is hopeful that the Blades would show their mettle and character against the Knights, who have proven their worth by ruling both the 2000 national finals and the First Phase. *Roy Luarca*

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Who's hot, who's not

CLEAN LIVING

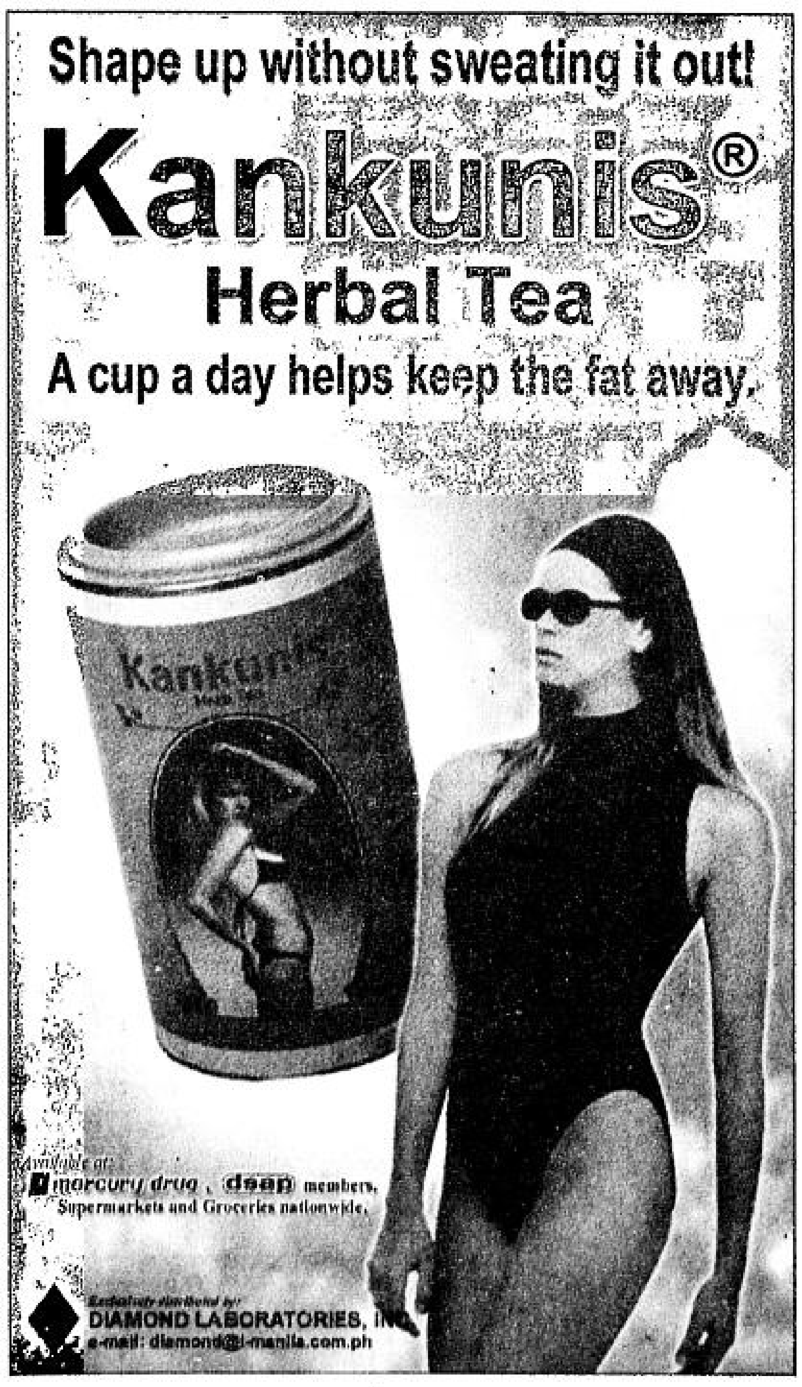
Manolo R. Iñigo

SEVEN players of Batang Red Bull have expiring contracts this December, namely: point guard Ato Agustin, a former MVP of the Philippine Basketball Association; small forward Lordy Tugade, Bernard Tanpua, whose asset is his tough defense; PBA veteran Edmund Reyes, newcomer Lowell Briones, Glenn Capacio, long on the sidelines due to injury; and seldom-used Ruel Buenaventura.

Avid supporters of the team said at least two or three of them—or even more—may not be rehired because, in their opinion, the team needs a major overhauling to regain its once lofty perch in the league where the Photokina franchise made millions sit up and cheer after it won the recent PBA Commissioner's Cup with aplomb in only its second year.

"Of course, it's up to coach Yeng Guiao to decide who's hot and who's not," said a loyal Red Bull fan, "but as far as I'm concerned, the players have lost their sting, becoming a profound disappointment to their followers with their erratic and lackluster performances in their most recent games."

If it is any consolation, the "Cinderella" team is still intact and, with the addition of new faces who will be picked from the PBA draft on Jan. 13, next year, expect Batang Red Bull to return with a bang. Besides, it is the PBA's youngest team and one of the league's tallest on record. Carrying the Thunder colors are old reliables led by defensive gem Davonn Harp, 22 years old, 6-foot-7 Fil-Am from Ohio; Mick Pennisi, 24, another Fil-Am who towers at 6-foot-9 and shoots well from the three-point area; fearless Junthy Valenzuela, 20, 6-foot-3 sensation from Cebu who can play both the big guard and small forward positions; slippery 5-foot-9 point guard Jimwell Torion, 24, also from Cebu who is known for his ability to shoot well from outside and penetrate the lane, and ex-Letranites Kerby Raymundo, 20, who stands at 6-foot-6 and plays center (he can also be converted to the 3-4 positions); and No. 1 draft pick Willie Miller, 23, 5-foot-11 point guard who is gifted with dazzling speed and deadly shooting from inside and out.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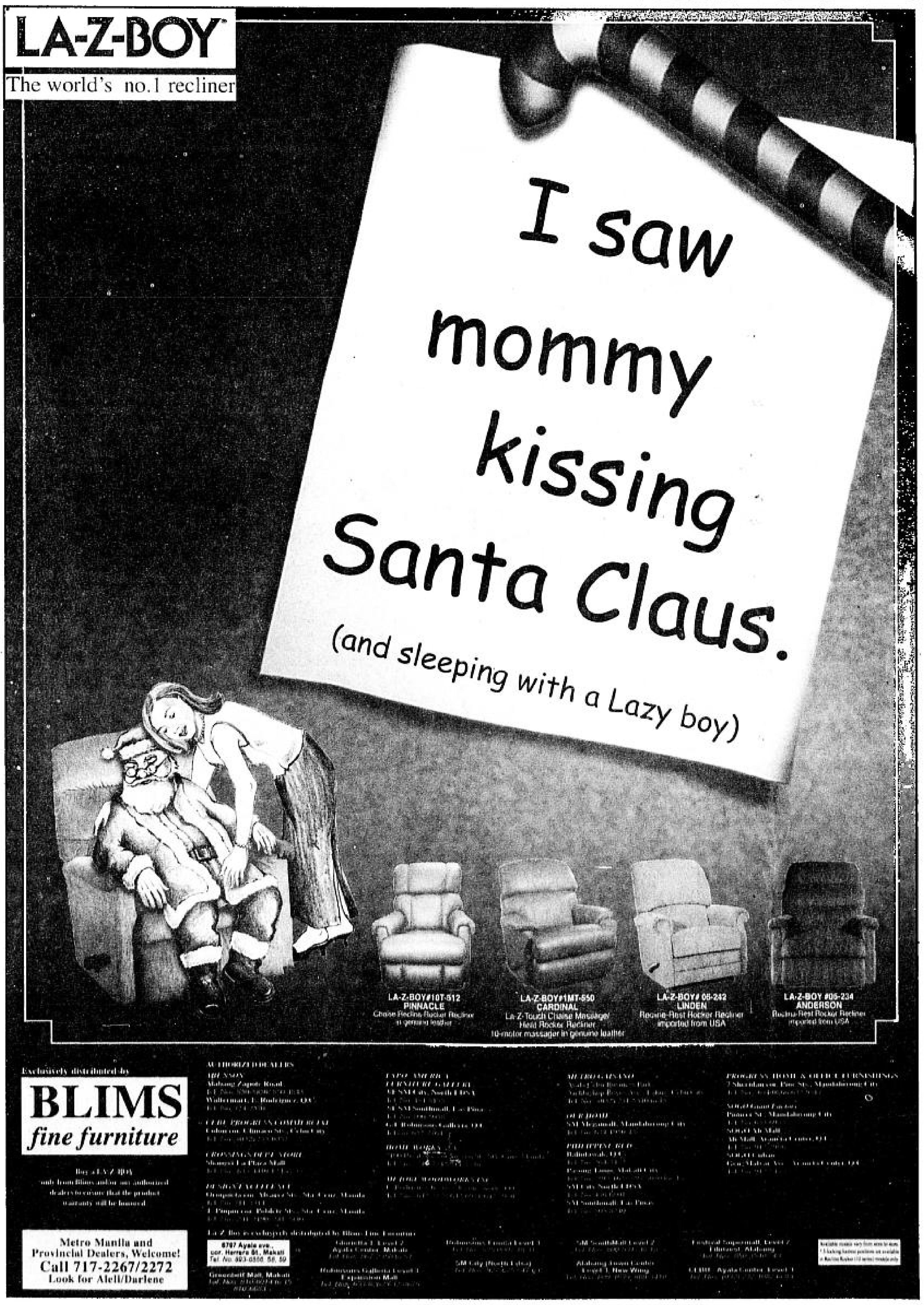
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ABENSON announces 1st batch of Grand Adventure Raffle Winners

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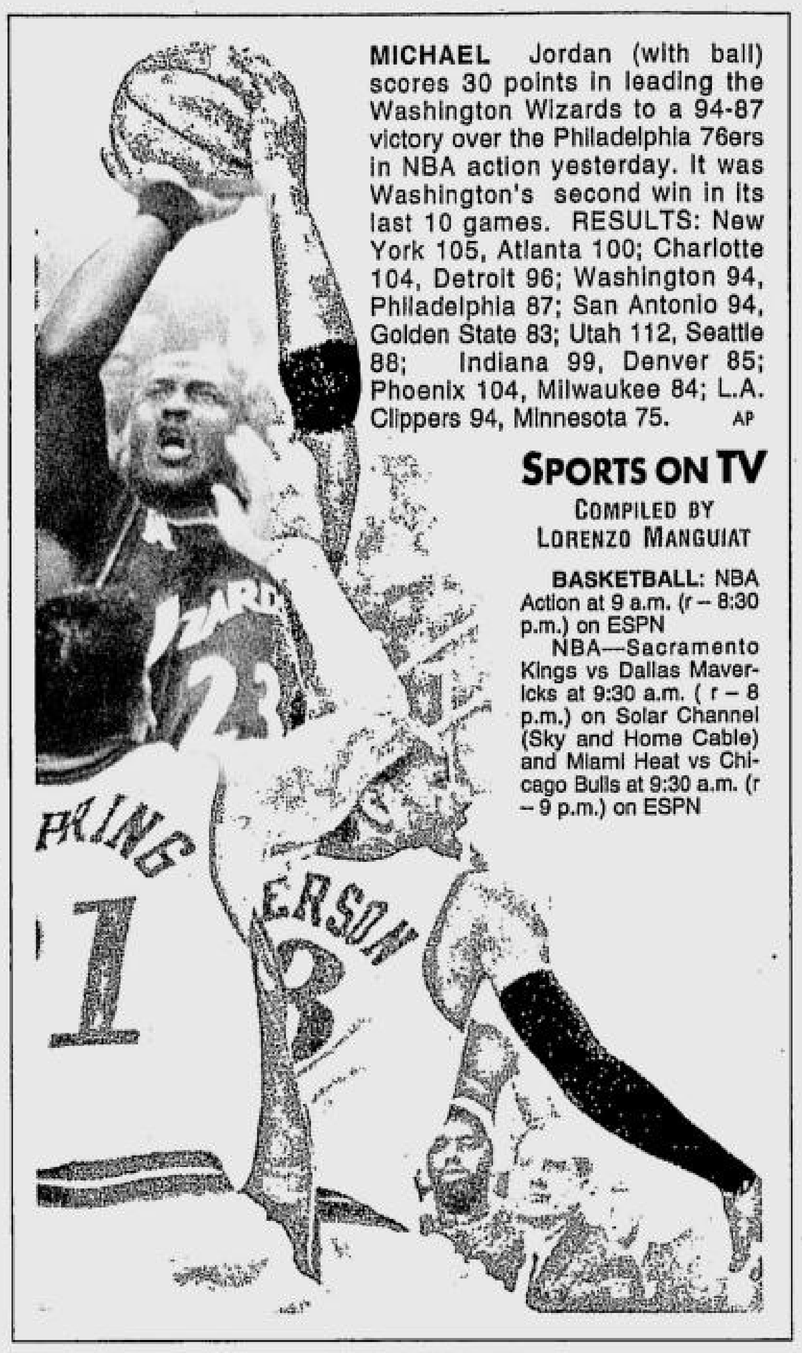

MICHAEL Jordan (with ball) scores 30 points in leading the Washington Wizards to a 94-87 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers in NBA action yesterday. It was Washington's second win in its last 10 games. RESULTS: New York 105, Atlanta 100; Charlotte 104, Detroit 96; Washington 94, Philadelphia 87; San Antonio 94, Golden State 83; Utah 112, Seattle 88; Indiana 99, Denver 85; Phoenix 104, Milwaukee 84; L.A. Clippers 94, Minnesota 75. AP

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY
LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 9 a.m. (r – 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN

NBA—Sacramento Kings vs Dallas Mavericks at 9:30 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on Solar Channel (Sky and Home Cable) and Miami Heat vs Chicago Bulls at 9:30 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on ESPN

SPORTSWATCH

South African beats Bulgarian

EIGHTH-SEEDED Rik de Voest banked on his solid volley to reach the quarterfinals of the $15,000 Tru-Flex ITF Philippines Men's Futures 1 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. The world's No. 375 South African outplayed Radoslav Lukaev of Bulgaria, 6-1, 7-6 (11-9) to advance against qualifier Kim Dong-Hyun of Korea. Kim scored a 6-2, 7-5 victory over Dmitri Mazur of Uzbekistan. "I played well. I made good volleys and returned the ball well," said the 21-year-old native of Pretoria, winner of two $15,000 Futures in South Africa in June.

Escrima fencing tourney tomorrow

AFTER three successful quarterly legs, the fourth and final leg of the Escrima Liga 2001 National Interschool Fencing Championships will be held tomorrow at the PSC Fencing Center at Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City. Ateneo de Manila, the top contender for the overall crown, is expected to face a tough challenge from University of the East in the two-day tournament supported by the Philippine Amateur Fencers Association, Philippine Sports Commission, Calciumade Orange Drink, Athena Hi-calcium milk and 105.1 Crossover. Organized by Team Ventures as part of its outreach program in developing sports among the youth, the Escrima Liga event will award the Athena Hi-Calcium Milk 2001 Outstanding Female Fencer trophy to the best performer in the distaff side.

Tenpin bowling at Festival unfolds

PRIZES worth P257,000 in gift certificate plus trophies will be at stake when the 2nd Pepsi-GameworX Tenpin Bowling Classic kicks off today at GameworX, StriXe fourth level of Festival Supermall, Filinvest Alabang in Muntinlupa City. The tournament is a joint effort of GameworX Inc. and Pepsi Inc. in coordination with Alliance of Muntinlupa Bowlers Association (Amba). Some P50,000 plus a beautiful trophy will go to the winner.

Garcera, Ubana pace duckpin tilt

JIMMY Garcera and Cess Ubana rolled identical three-game series of 406 pins recently to show the way in the singles (A/B) event of the 27th National Open duckpin bowling championships at the Puyat Sports Center in Starmall along Edsa. Garcera moved ahead of Louie Tandingan (392), Rene Capulan (390), Nap Malinao (389) and Hermie Castillo (381) in the men's division, while Ubana of D'Friendly led Ruby Villamil (403), Imelda Laxamana (387), Geena Gregorio (373) and Sonia Quitalig (358) in the ladies' group. The other early leaders are: Men's singles (class C)—Val Almazan, 410; Junilo Sarvida, 385; Boy Magday, 378; George Ferrer, 372; and Noel Remollo, 369. Ladies' singles (class C)—Neneng Ubana, 374; Claire Cruz, 362; Ennie Inocando, 358; Mely Concepcion, 349; and Liza Zapanta, 349.

Pasay City hosts 4-cock derby

ONE of Pasay City Cockpit's major attractions will unfold at 7 tonight via the special 4-cock derby bannering more than 60 fights. At stake in this event is a whopping cash prize of P300,000 while entry fee is P10,000, according to derby host Cesar Bote who is one of the most consistent derbyists in Metro Manila. Among the favorites are Eric dela Rosa (Pasko Na Sa Pasay 4-Cock Dec. 21) who ruled the 4-cocker last week at PCC, Cesar Guce, William Co, Lito Orillaza, Ramon Mancenares, Capt. Abong Guce, Rudy Salud, Danny Aguilar, Bobby Cabillion, Manuel Polo, Butchoy Olano and Cito Manansala, among others. Also slated at PCC is the Miss Liberty 4-Cock Derby on Dec. 7, to be hosted by Pimentel. Hackfights are held at PCC every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Guardia Real 3rd in Alaska Cup

GUARDIA Real FC, not Hapee Toothpaste Football team as earlier reported, won third place during the recently concluded Alaska Football Cup 2001 held at the Ayala Alabang Country Club. League officials Tomas Lozano and Ludwig Fuentebella also confirmed that the Kaya Football Club wound up champion and Mendiola FC second.

MANILA'S DANCERS
William Dave Bernardino (left) and Cynthia Tajon strut their wares during a presentation before the Manila delegation for this year's Batang Pinoy left for Bacolod yesterday. Among those in the crowd is Manila Sports Council (Masco) chair Ali Atienza (background, center). Aside from dance sports, Manila is also entered in chess, swimming, badminton, taekwondo and football.

BY DENNIS U. EROA

COURT general Mike Cortez sparkled all game long as International Container Terminal Services Inc. Archers stunned Welcoat Paints, 88-83, in double overtime yesterday in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The six-footer Cortez orchestrated the Archers' deadly half-court game to perfection, finding open teammates and piercing enemy defense as ICTSI bounced back losing by 17 points to rivals Ateneo-Pioneer on Saturday.

Cortez, named by national coach Ron Jacobs as a probable member of the country's Asiad-bound team next year, committed just one turnover, finishing with 16 points, six assists and three rebounds in 38 minutes of play.

Jojo Manalo sent the game into overtime, 71-71, and the Paintmasters appeared ready to wrap up the exciting game when they led, 83-77, 2:28 left.

But Cortez took over. He broke ICTSI's scoring drought with a triple, before giving two assists to Rommel Daep as the Archers dropped an 8-0 bomb, 85-83, 18 seconds left.

In the second game, Blu Detergent overpowered Ateneo-Pioneer, 85-78, fortifying its hold of the solo leadership with its fifth win in six games. Ateneo-Pioneer absorbed its fourth loss against a win on a night which saw top rookie pick Billy Mamaril unable to score.

The Scores:

ICTSI ARCHERS 88—Sta. Maria 16, Cortez 16, Castro 13, Omolon 12, Magsumbol 8, Daep 8, Uy 6, Franco 4, Cuan 3, Wilson 2, Manalo 0.

WELCOAT 83—Ritualo 24, Patrimonio 14, Manalo 12, Cruz 11, De Ocampo 9, Tan 7, Encarnacion 4, Tolentino 2, Canlas 0, Orfrecio 0.

Quarters:19-19, 35-35, 54-54, 71-71 (reg), 77-77 (2nd OT), 88-83

BLU 85—Bacani 17, De la Cuesta 16, Sanz 14, Epondulan 10, Legaspi 8, Kalaw 7, Roldan 6, Billones 5, Quiambao 2, Codamon 0, Calo 0.

ATENEO-PIONEER 78—Noble 19, Avenido 17, Ferrer 11, Villanueva 9, Alvarez 8, Fonacier 5, Membrere 4, De la Rosa 3, Bugia 2, Sison 0, Mamaril 0.

Quarters: 31-25, 56-40, 75-60, 85-78

Spring champ again

NEWLY CROWNED National Open basketball champion Spring Cooking Oil added another trophy to its collection Tuesday by subduing Army, 97-94, to win the Atienza Cup at the Tanduay gym in Quiapo.

Led by Mar Reyes, Rodel Manuel and Mike Buendia, who scored 19, 19 and 13 points, respectively, Coach Tito Palma's Cooking Oil Experts surged to a 49-42 halftime lead and never looked back.

Point guard Allan de Castro, who was named MVP, helped preserve Spring's lead in the final half.

It was the third title in three months for national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Spring Cooking Oil, which took the Danny Espiritu Cup last September and followed this up with a big victory over a strong Korean team, 84-68, in the National Open finals last Saturday.

Spring has been tapped to represent NCR (National Capital Region) in the Negros Invitational Open slated Dec. 17-22 in Bacolod City.

The scores:

SPRING 97—Manuel 19, Reyes 19, Buendia 13, Lambert 11, De Castro 10, Espiritu 7, Ricafuente 6, Alforque 6, Simpas 4, Dural 2, Martinez 0, Nabung 0

ARMY 94—Baltazar 32, Castillo 19, Malapit 14, Gutierrez 10, Montemayor 8, Cabili 6, Bingaora 5, Jabar 0, Marquez 0

Halftime: 49-42

RACING TIPS

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BY MR. 999

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Race 2—1. Race for Gold 2. North Shine 3. Corporate Law 4. Jinky

Race 3—1. Jackpot Baby 2. Dressed to Impress 3. Fortius 4. Bold Freddy 5. Full Show

Race 4—1. Jhelen 2. Thunder Speed 3. Al's Princess 4. Don't Worry 5. Come in Glory

Race 5—1. Venus 2. Silver Rose 3. My Indy 4. Latin Beat 5. Lorna

Race 6—1. Burning Light 2. Flirting Hero 3. James Joy 4. Red Bells 5. Profitable

Race 7—1. Free Time 2. Ann's Magic 3. Very Sharp

Race 8—1. Tayp Ko Yan 2. Party Princess 3. Triggerman 4. Friendly Lover 5. Play By Play

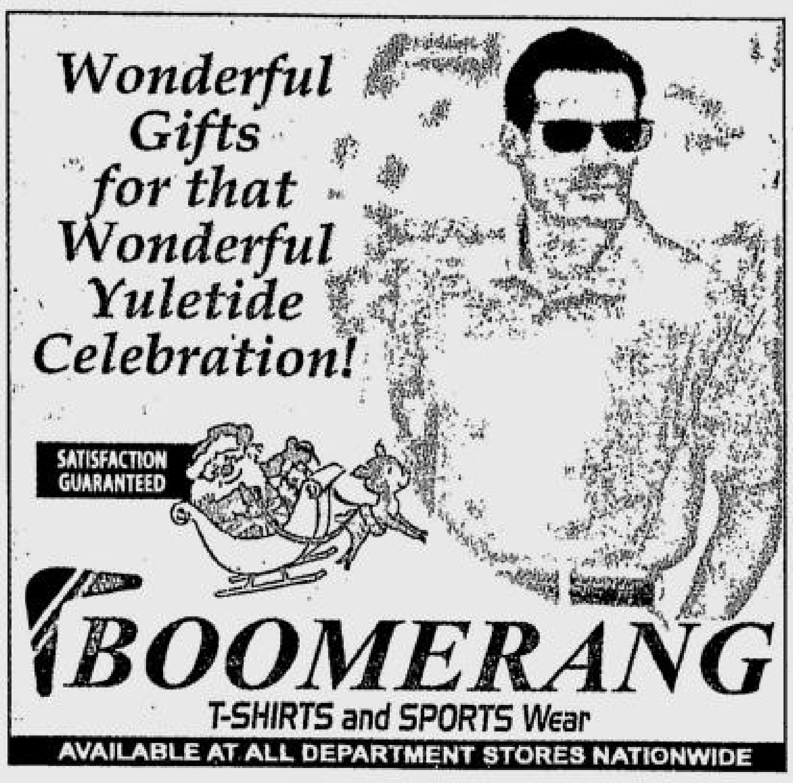
Race 9—1. Noble House 2. Queen Jamie 3. Leading Light 4. Arch Rival 5. Let Me Pass

Race 10—1. Easy Win 2. Front Page 3. Bardagul 4. Marginal Note 5. Rainbow Dazzler

Race 11—1. Ayos Ba There 2. True to Life/ Run for Cash 3. Roman Dance 4. Royal Angel 5. Super Portal

Race 12—1. I Swear 2. Valentine Party 3. Playing With Fire 4. Water Polo 5. Cash on Delivery

Race 13—1. Gidget 2. Sexy Royal 3. Make Your Mark 4. American Beauty 5. Power Corrupts 6. Black Force



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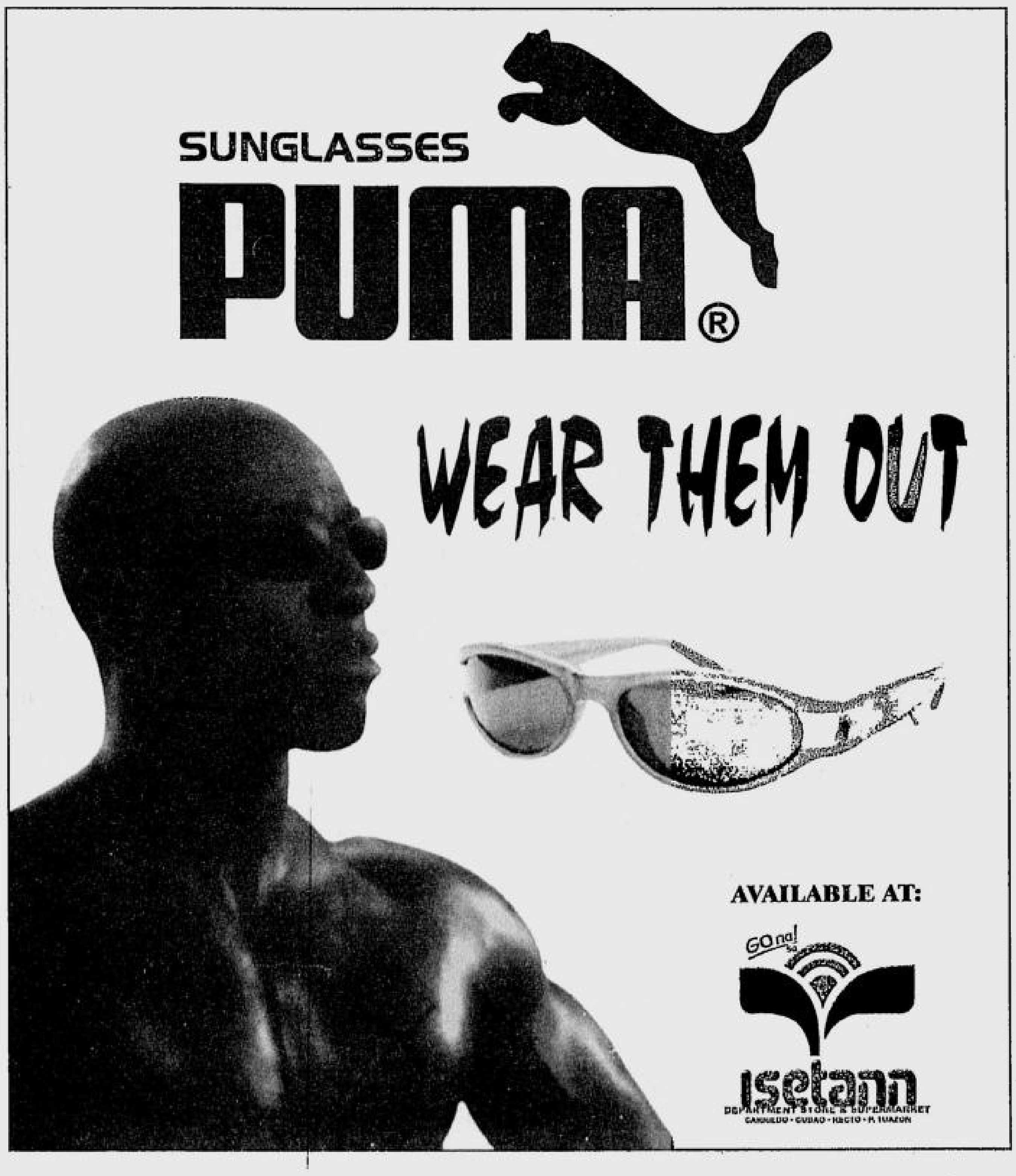

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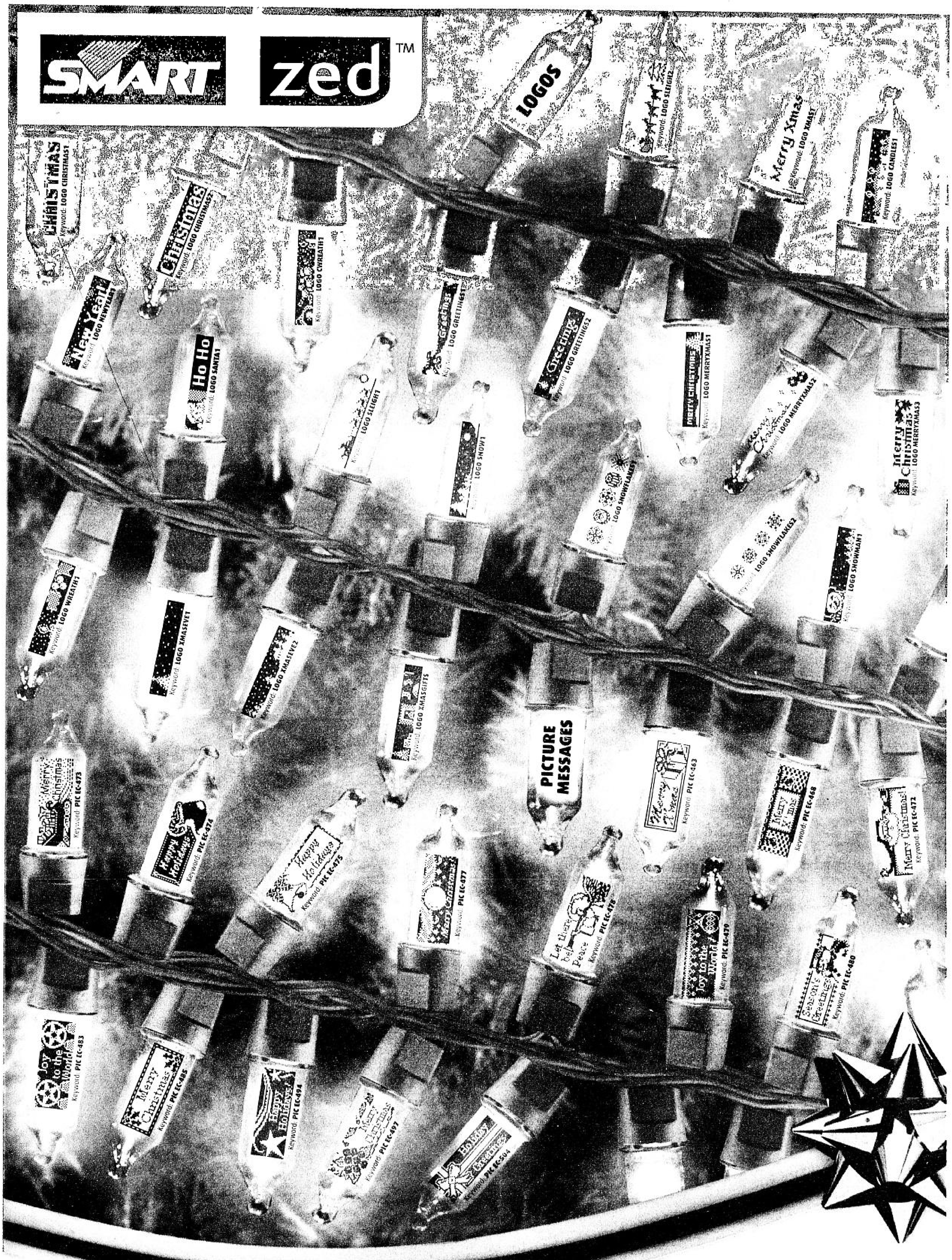
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

2 suspects nabbed in Cinco ambush

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

TWO of five suspects in the ambush and killing of former Commission on Elections (Comelec) director Velma Cinco are said to be in the custody of authorities.

The authorities denied they had two suspects in their custody, but sources in Task Force C-5 (Comelec-Cinco) yesterday said the suspects were arrested after a two-day operation in a Southern Tagalog province.

The suspects were still undergoing interrogation yesterday, the source added.

Before news of the arrests leaked yesterday, Supt. Frederico Castro of Western Police District-Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said also yesterday that one of the five suspects in the Cinco killing looked like one of the two gunmen in the police sketches.

"We are zeroing in on two of the suspects," Castro said. "One of them resembles the sketch while the other was suspiciously not with his employer when the killing happened."

He said investigators had traced the location of the suspects and were still hunting them down.

"Whoever makes the arrest…I'd like to emphasize that this is a joint effort of the WPD and the National Bureau of Investigation," Castro said about noon yesterday.

He said authorities have a picture of one of the suspects, which was taken three years ago. The man in the picture allegedly resembles closely the younger of two men, who shot Cinco.

A witness had described the younger gunman as between 35 and 40 years old, about 5-foot-9 or 5-foot-10, between 130 and 140 lbs., with a slim build, and fair complexioned. The gunman was in a light blue polo shirt and denim pants, the witness said.

Police ballistic tests also showed that the gun of Mark Laverne Manzano and the 9 mm spent shells found at the crime scene did not match, Castro added.

"I haven't received the whole report but, during our case conference this morning, they told me that the results were negative," he said.

Castro revealed that the WPD-CIDG is also going after a third suspect, known to be a former soldier. He said investigators were still checking the background of two other suspects.

Among the three angles that Task Force C-5 (Comelec-5) is looking into, the row between Cinco and her predecessor Angelina Matibag remained the most probable motive for the killing, Castro said.

Cinco was ambushed last Nov. 20 at the corner of Pedro Gil and Eden streets in Sta. Ana, Manila when she was on her way to work on board her red Kia Pride (TDR 779). She was with her son Carlo and sister Marian S. Jayme.

What's right with Rong Jacobs

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(SUMMER KID: The last time I saw Percy Della was in 1984, during the L.A. Olympics. After a few beers, we drove to the boxing venue, split the loose dollars in our pockets, and bought tickets to see a Filipino bet, Leopoldo Cantancio. The poor guy got knocked out cold with a single nifty blast to his jutting jaw. We just laughed it off. Cantancio, now among our national amateur coaches, was to suffer a similar fate in the Seoul Olympiad four years later. No, Percy and myself, as could be expected, were no longer there to witness Cantancio's second straight fall. In fact, I haven't seen Percy since that funny night in the L.A. Olympics. Look, that was 17 years ago. Naturally, I was deeply elated that my friend, called by Al Mendoza as the Cuyapo Kid, is in town. He has some very serious, solemn duty to perform: Bury his beloved mother. Our sincerest sympathies. At least, Percy's dear mom had preferred to leave in this cold month, not in March or April. Those two months, by the way, are very special to Percy, the young Shakespeare of Philippine sportswriting, who once wrote that, "Young loves are born in summer.")

* * *

SOME wise guys would not hesitate to call him Rong Jacobs.

But all the newly appointed coach of the national basketball team did was issue a basic statement to show where he rightfully stands.

It's going to be difficult, coach Ron preached, but RP can't hope to win it by simply trying to outscore China.

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Fire hits Munti compound

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

FIRE yesterday gutted a building inside the maximum security compound of the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City.

No one had been reported injured as of press time.

Authorities could not yet determine what caused the fire, which started around 3:45 p.m., at Building 11 of the compound, said prison spokesperson Supt. Venancio Tesoro. But witnesses said they saw smoke coming from the ceiling before the building was gutted.

The building housed 222 inmates, mostly political prisoners and military offenders.

Among them were convicted killer Claudio Teehankee, and the 16 soldiers involved in the Aquino-Galman double murder case, Tesoro said.

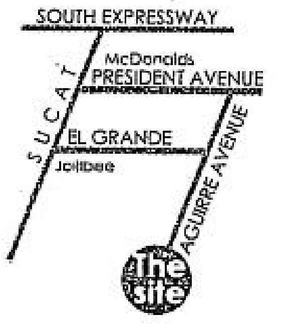
Most of the displaced inmates helped douse the fire with pails of water. Later they were subjected to a head-count and transferred to other prison cells.

The blaze was declared under control about 5 p.m.

The fire occurred after NBP officials ordered the relief of Supt. Alfredo Gozon, warden of the Davao Prison and Penal Farm.

Justice Secretary Hernando Pérez on Tuesday endorsed the temporary relief of Gozon, who is facing charges of gross misconduct and/or conduct grossly prejudicial to the best interest of the service. Gozon's assistant, Supt. Alexander Sanchez, took over.

Three months ago, the NBP sent a team of investigators to look into complaints that Gozon's men harassed volunteers from the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines who were visiting the penal colony, a prison official said.



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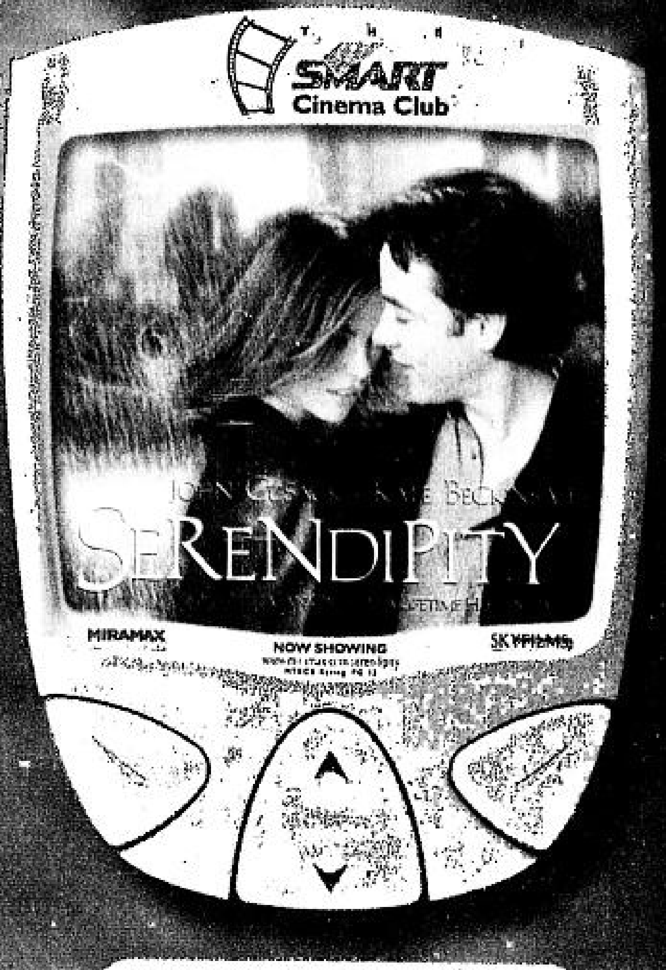

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Cops ready for Erap's eye check-up

By Alcuin Papa

THE MAKATI police and the Southern Police District yesterday said they have set up security preparations for the eye check-up of former President Joseph Estrada scheduled for today at the Asian Eye Institute in the Rockwell Center in Makati City.

The Southern Police District director, Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, told reporters he ordered Makati City chief of police Supt. Jovito Gutierrez (no relation) "to take care of security" during Estrada's eye check-up.

"We have also made provisions for augmentation in case there would be rallies in support of the former president," the SPD head said. "If necessary I can easily provide augmentation forces since Fort Bonifacio (SPD headquarters) is nearby."

The Makati City chief of police in turn ordered the Makati Police station 9 to send out two mobile groups for "visibility assistance to augment and monitor" the former president's supporters who might hold support rallies in the vicinity.

He also advised his men to maintain a "low profile and maximum tolerance" in dealing with Estrada's supporters.

On Wednesday, the graft court that is hearing the plunder cases against Estrada granted his motion to be allowed to seek medical treatment for cataract in one of his eyes.

Dad wants alarm systems in establishments

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA councilor has proposed an ordinance requiring banks, gas stations, pawnshops, drugstores and 24-hour convenience stores in the city to install alarm systems and closed circuit TV cameras in their establishments.

Councilor Elizabeth Rivera of the sixth district said owners of such firms should not rely entirely on police and the local government to secure their establishments.

She said she also agrees with the observation of the Metro Manila police chief, Director Edgardo Aglipay, that police presence cannot always be assured on a 24-hour basis.

Aglipay recently requested municipal and city councils to pass such an ordinance.

Rivera, who chairs the council's consumer affairs committee, said managers, owners and operators of banks, drugstores, gas stations, pawnshops and 24-hour convenience stores should share with the police part of the burden in guarding their establishments.

Once the ordinance is passed, firms that refuse to install security devices will be fined P200 a day. Officials and incorporators of violating firms will be jailed for not more than six months.

UPDATE'S
Vincent's at Shangri-la

Sabor Latino will be performing live at Vincent's on November 30.

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Suicide in house of friend

A 19-YEAR-OLD father of one shot himself dead in the house of his girlfriend in Mandaluyong early Wednesday morning, police said yesterday.

Charles Holmann, a resident of Dansalan Street in Mandaluyong City, died at the Dr. Victor Potenciano Medical Center on Edsa due to a gunshot wound in the head from a .38 caliber revolver, police said.

The victim was said to be a nephew of TV host Chiqui Holmann-Yulo, according to police.

Police said Holmann went to the house of his girlfriend Ana Milet Jugo, also in Mandaluyong, late Tuesday night. About 4 a.m., a burst of gunfire awakened Jugo, police said.

Jugo said she found Holmann bleeding profusely from a head wound and brought him to the hospital just a few meters away from her house.

Police said they learned that Holmann sold some of his personal belongings, including a motorcycle, to buy the gun he used in shooting himself.

Nelson F. Flores

What's right with . . .

(From page A25)

outscore the opposition?

"We're going to out-hustle them," Jacobs explained. "We'll have to shorten the game, take possession away from them. We can't allow China to get easy baskets."

Simply put, Jacobs was saying China could be had if RP would not allow the opponent to score more baskets than it usually does.

The formula is to play unforgiving defense.

***

Jacobs, no doubt, is building the Pusan Asiad campaign around an entirely new philosophy.

It's a deep faith, a new belief which none of his predecessors, starting with Robert Jaworski in 1990, had ever tried.

That alone was a big step in the right direction.

But, mind you, out-hustling the Chinese would be easier said than done.

In order to do this, the RP team must make sure it could establish an even footing with the Chinese.

Mark that: even footing.

***

He's bound to be perplexed and stunned.

But if Jacobs bothers to look closer, he would readily discover that a big majority, if not all, of our local superstars functions with only one solidly effective foot.

If a righthander, like Alvin Patrimonio, he could take off only with the right foot. The left foot, at best, is hollow.

This basic, native flaw could, indeed, appear insignificant at first glance.

When I first tried to bring it up with Tim Cone, coach of the RP team in the 1998 Asiad, he brushed it off.

He said he was totally unaware of this so-called wrong foot in international basketball.

When I next tried to talk about it with a former national coach, he with the volcanic temper, he promptly killed the topic. He claimed the wrong foot is not necessary in basketball. Period.

Very seldom can you catch a player having had to use that so-called wrong foot, he explained. He then moved out, leaving me feeling numb.

***

Let me explain that, if Filipino cagers had launched their recent Asiad campaigns on solid, even footing, they could have come up with better results.

Listen, please. It often could escape the untrained eye, but the Chinese and Koreans could take off, shift, sprint, cover, etc. with equal effectiveness moving with either foot first.

They have their own name for it, but I named this the principle of the wrong foot.

This is the pivot weapon perfected by Michael Jordan and Akeem Olajuwon in the NBA.

Asian cage great Shin Dong Pa had in fact personally confided to me this basic information: As a right-handed shooter, he had more ease scoring off his guards by taking off using the wrong foot, the left in Shin's case.

***

This indeed could sound very puzzling, totally alien.

In fact, one veteran writer branded it as pure mumbo jumbo after I first wrote about it immediately after the 1998 Bangkok Asiad.

At least PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, an astute basketball scholar, has happily shared my observation.

He mentioned Jordan and Olajuwon as the best examples.

I mentioned Atoy Co.

Caloy Loyzaga would himself next confirm to me how he had developed into an even-footed star by playing football.

Olympian Ciso Bernardo, a popular Mandaluyong City councilor, swore that, with his size, he would have not gone far if not for the equal strength in his legs.

***

Now, I'm saying all this to call the attention of coach Ron.

The philosophy of the so-called wrong foot could do a lot of good to members of the national squad to next year's Asian Games.

He could laugh it off, just like what Tim Cone did.

Let me, however, remind Jacobs that, just like with his principle on not trying to just outscore the Chinese, making use of the wrong foot could spell victory or defeat for the Philippines.

This could be one time when, unlike Erap Estrada, going wrong would not land us in jail.

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1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 (DOLBY)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
2	TIKIM
3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
4 (DTS)	MONSTERS, INC

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	MONSTERS, INC
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	KING OF GLADIATORS
5	DUGONG ASO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
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1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	MONSTERS, INC.

Olivarez Los Baños
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1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	HARRY POTTER
3	MONSTERS, INC

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	HARRY POTTER
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

Morales Cinema
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1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	MONSTERS, INC.
3	HARRY POTTER

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2 (DTS)	DUGONG ASO

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	DUGONG ASO
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	THE BODY
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	HARRY POTTER
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	HARRY POTTER
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS EX)	MONSTERS, INC

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2	HARRY POTTER
3	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
4	MONSTER, INC.
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	MONSTER, INC.
7	HARRY POTTER
8	TIKIM
9	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
10	SERENDIPITY

THX

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	MONSTER, INC.
2	HARRY POTTER
3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
4	TIKIM
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	HARRY POTTER
7	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

METRO EAST
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1	HARRY POTTER
2	HARRY POTTER
3	TIKIM
4	TIKIM
5	OTHERSIDE OF THE LAW
6	MONSTER, INC.
7	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
8	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
2	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
3	MONSTER, INC.
4	MONSTER, INC.
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7	TIKIM
8	HARRY POTTER

IMUS
(046) 471-8196

1	HARRY POTTER
2	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
3	TIKIM
4	MONSTER, INC.
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

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2	SERENDIPITY
3	THE ONE
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5	KAPITAN AMBO
6	DUGONG ASO

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1	HARRY POTTER
2	SERENDIPITY
3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
4	MONSTER, INC.
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	MONSTER, INC.

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KAPITAN AMBO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WEYT A MINIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	GLITTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	EARTHQUAKE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	UNFAITHFUL WIFE / SEX MEDUSA
ODEON	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
ODEON-2	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
ROBEN	TIKIM
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	CROCODILE / ST. FRANCIS VILLE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	TIKIM
REMAR	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
REMAR-2	TIKIM
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
B	TIKIM
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	GLITTER
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
CINEMA-3	WEYT A MINIT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MONSTER, INC.
CINEMA-6	TIKIM
CINEMA-7	ANO BANG MERON KA?
CINEMA-8	KAPITAN AMBO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MONSTER, INC.
CINEMA-12	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
CINEMA-14	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
CINEMA-15	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-3	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-4	MONSTERS, INC
CINEMA-5	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-6	HARRY POTTER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

SEGUERRA

'Aiza Live' in Pampanga

FRESH from the quadruple platinum award of her album "Pagdating ng Panahon," Aiza Seguerra holds a solo concert, "Aiza Live," 7 p.m. on Dec. 15 at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center in San Fernando, Pampanga.

The concert will be Aiza's way of thanking everyone who supported her phenomenal album under Vicor Music Corporation.

The show will also serve as her reunion with fellow O.B. Montessori students who will perform with her.

Expect an evening of music and fun, as Aiza promises to make the event a memorable moment for all her fans.

Creative director is Gus Aldeguer. Musical director is Ric Mercado.

Tickets to the concert are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets, McDonald's Angeles and San Fernando, Pampanga.

Tickets are priced at P1,000, P800, P500, P350 and P200.

Promo winners

THE EXCITEMENT builds up with Jack n' Jill Chippy, Piattos and Nova's "Kiss Kiss and a Million" promo, as Jack 'n' Jill recently held its preliminary draw on the popular noontime show, "Eat Bulaga," giving away half a million pesos to the initial winners.

Jack 'n' Jill "Kiss Kiss and a Million" is a two-in-one promo that gives Jack n' Jill snackers two ways to win.

Cellular phones or instant cash prizes of up to P100,000 can be won by matching up the panels of the scratch and match game or P1 million in the grand draw through the five-number combination at the back of the "Kiss Kiss" card.

The grand draw is Dec. 1.

Jack 'n' Jill snackers can still get a crack at winning more cash prizes or cellular phones by collecting "Kiss Kiss" cards found in every pack of Jack n' Jill snack items.

Weekend party

MILD Seven's last hot party for the year happens tonight, with the gorgeous models of the Mild Seven team, raiding the hottest and hippest bars in Makati.

Play the Mild Seven Dares, Any of Seven Dice Game and the Cigarette Puffing Contest, which will give partygoers the chance to win premium items like T-shirts, caps, lighters and ashtrays.

Party with the Mild Seven team at Hard Rock Café, Tequila Joe's, Cable Car Glorietta, Grilla, Hutu's Hut, Che Cigar, Cork, Stixx Bar and Café Overdrive.

South Border ready to fill up major concert venue

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

SOUTH Border is undaunted. Come Nov. 30, the six-man band will mount the open-air stage at the Philippine Sports Center (PSC) Track and Field Oval for their major concert, "The Way We Do."

Some 30,000 people are expected to come. And South Border is ready. In fact, they've prepared long and hard for this.

"The Way We Do" is the group's third major concert. It is also meant to promote their latest album of the same title.

Not all bands are daring enough to do a show at the PSC. Only foreign artists have filled up the cavernous venue. But the extent of South Border's popularity goes beyond recording and regular gigs. To date, the group has amassed a growing legion of supporters enough to pack the PSC Track and Field Oval.

South Border is composed of vocalist **Luke Mejares**, keyboardist and songwriter **Jay Durias**, drummer **Paul Benitez**, bassist **Tata Balane**, sax player **Ric Junasa**, and lead and rhythm guitarist **Butch Victoriano**.

For guys who never really dreamed of hitting it big, South Border has indeed come a long way from Davao, where most of the members trace their humble beginnings.

Luke, who replaced vocalist **Brix Ferraris**, was from Cebu. It helped that Luke was a big South Border fan, so when the group was in need of a vocalist after Brix left, Luke filled in the vacancy.

The string of hit tunes, sold-out concerts and record awards affirmed South Border's fame through the years. And their popularity has not waned. It is even increased with the much-awaited release of "The Way We Do," which will also be marketed internationally.

The album contains original cuts like "7 Years," "Habang Atin ang Gabi," "Will You Feel the Same?," "Non-Stop," "Before Tomorrow," "All I Want is You Today" and the title track.

Listen to South Border render some new cuts from their latest album in their Ultra concert tonight. Of course, the band will also sing their signature hits like "Love of My Life," "Kahit Kailan" and "Another Place in Time," among others.

SOUTH Border—(from left) Ric Junasa, Paul Benitez, Luke Mejares, Jay Durias, Butch Victoriano and Tata Balane (front)—has amassed a growing legion of supporters.

'Comedy is an outlet'

SINGER-COMEDIENNE **Marissa Sanchez** is in a dilemma. With the tragic events happening in the country, particularly in show business, she faces the challenge of presenting a stand-up comedy show, "Comic Appetite," that can make people laugh, relax and unwind.

"I'll try to divert the attention of the audience from the tragic events that have happened lately," Marissa says. "We have been affected by the things going on. I guess it's about time we need a good laugh. Comedy is an outlet. We can create a joke without necessarily making fun of the tragedy."

Marissa stages "Comic Appetite," her first major concert, tonight at Music Museum. She informs the show has a multi-level format that combines the ingredients of a lounge act and a musical revue.

Producer **Baby Pacheco** says "Comic Appetite" will showcase Marissa's versatility in both singing and comedy.

Pacheco earlier produced a sold-out **Marissa Sanchez-Arnel Ignacio** back-to-back at Ratsky's in Malate. The success of the said show, and Marissa's other shows in the past, prompted Pacheco to bankroll a major concert for Marissa.

"I think with her vast talents in entertaining and holding a crowd together, it's time Marissa had a major concert," Pacheco says.

Marissa has indeed come a long way since she started spoofing **Zsa Zsa Padilla** on **Cristy Fermin**'s now-defunct daily afternoon talk show, "Cristy Per Minute."

It was in that program where audiences took notice of Marissa's talent. It also opened doors for her in show biz, after years of performing at Hyatt's Calesa Bar, where she held court every Monday for five years.

Today, Marissa does not only sing. She also does comic roles on TV and the movies. She used to be part of the cast of the **Robin Padilla** sitcom, "Pwedeng Pwede," where she nurtured a friendship with the late **Nida Blanca**, whom she remembers with fondness.

"Days before she (Nida) died, I even asked her to watch this show and she told me to reserve 10 tickets for her and Tito Rod, as well as for some of her friends," Marissa recalls. "She told me, 'I'm sure' your show would be successful' and even wished me luck."

Marissa also recently starred with **Diether Ocampo** and **Joyce Jimenez** in the light romance-drama, "Ano Ba'ng Meron Ka?," directed by **Maryo J. de los Reyes.**

In "Comic Appetite," Marissa will display not only her wit and self-deprecating humor—she is one comedienne who can make fun of her looks and her size, get away with it—but also her torch singing.

"I want to please everyone, so my repertoire will consist of standards, pop and R&B tunes, with a 'Moulin Rouge' medley and songs of **Janet Jackson, Toni Braxton, Barbra Streisand, Tina Turner** and **Angela Boffill**," Marissa offers.

Her musical director is **Bong Dimalanta**.

She will also spoof **Kristine Hermosa**'s popular soap opera character in "Pangako sa 'Yo," **Ina Macaspac**, with comedian **Vhong Navarro** as her **Jericho Rosales**.

Also joining the humor and banter onstage are Marissa's special guests **Carlo Agassi** and the Hung Hangs (not to be mistaken for The Hunks).

SANCHEZ. Set to deliver the laughs in "Comic Appetite."

Assunta is next most important actress, says director Lamangan

"CLASSY and shapely" is how people describe Fil-Italian actress Assunta de Rossi. She is class all by herself. And what a shapely figure—willowy with all the curves in the right places.

No wonder Assunta was the one and only choice of the international magazine FHM to be its calendar girl for the year 2002. FHM wanted a sex symbol who exudes class and animal magnetism. Assunta fits the bill.

But Assunta is more than sophistication and beauty, she's also a fine actress, as shown in "Red Diaries" and "Sisid" and in her upcoming starrer "Hubog," a possible entry to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival.

Produced by Good Harvest, written by Roy Yglesias and directed by Joel Lamangan, "Hubog" draws out Assunta's acting prowess to the fullest.

ASSUNTA de Rossi with costar Wendell Ramos in the possible filmfest entry, "Hubog."

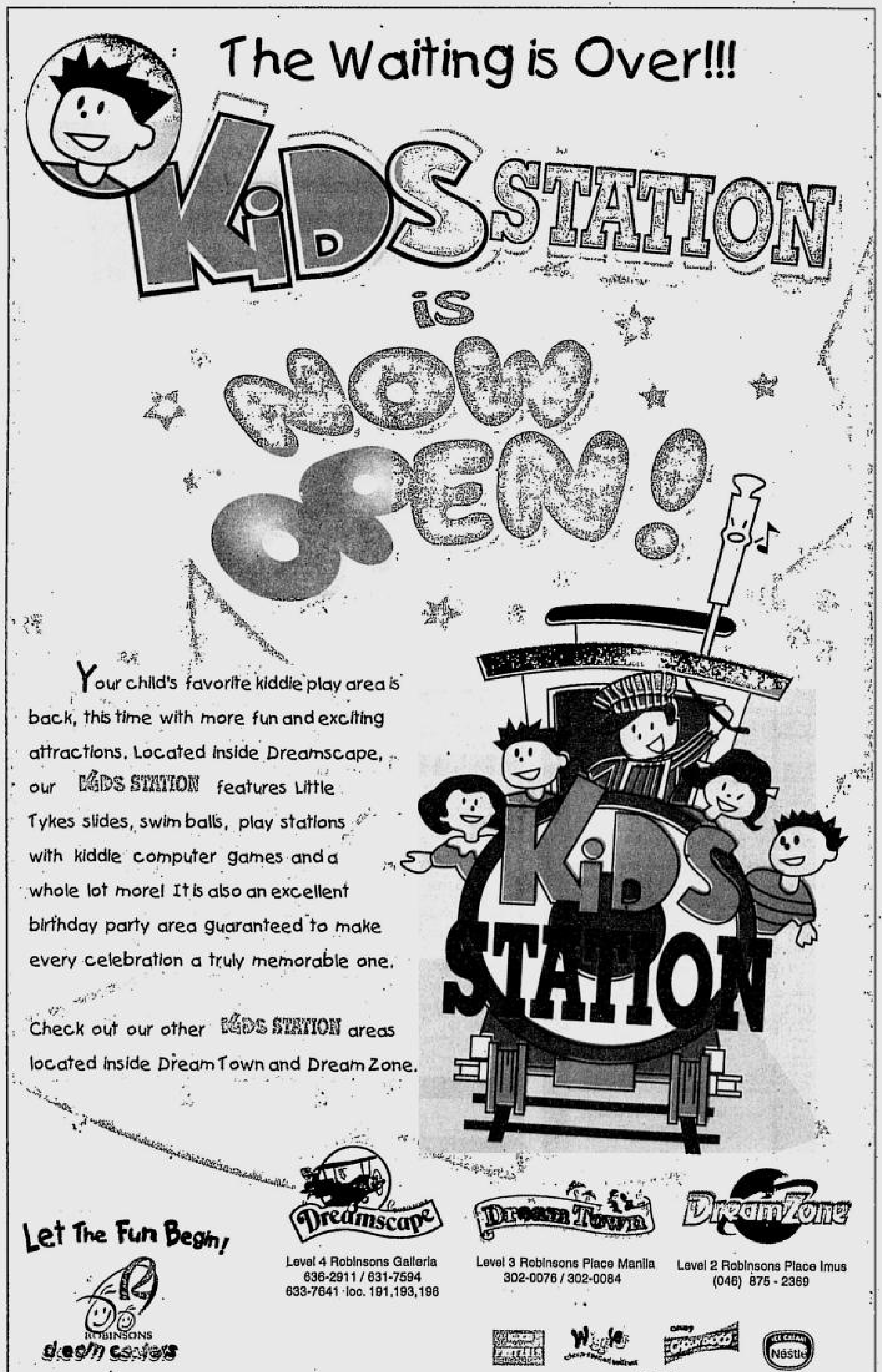
In the movie, Assunta plays a slum girl who takes care of an autistic sister (Alessandra de Rossi, her very own younger sister, an accomplished actress in her own right). She falls in love with a petty crook (Wendell Ramos) and yields to the lust of a ruthless henchman (Jay Manalo) out of gratitude.

Lamangan said he first noticed Assunta in "Red Diaries," where she played with credibility three contrasting characters.

"That early, I knew Assunta was a good actress," he says. "In 'Hubog,' she gave a highly textured and sensitive performance. In no time, Assunta will be one of our important actresses."

Lamangan knows whereof he speaks, having directed Nora Aunor in "Flor Contemplacion" (where she won best actress award in the Cairo International Film Festival) and Glydel Mercado in "Sidhi" (where she earned a grand slam in the best supporting actress category in the Star, Film Academy, Famas and Urian awards).

Assunta's followers come from all classes: yuppies, students, office workers, even *"kanto"* boys who also want their sexpot classy and, of course, shapely,



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CONTRACT SIGNING: (seated from left) band manager Henry Onglatco, Elaine Tadena, Sony Music managing director Wally Chamsay, Coline Hofer, Carmelle Sison; (standing, from left), Anier Dayan, Warren de Leon, Sony A&R manager Tato Malay, Jason Balunes and Ruel de los Santos.

Silk inks recording contract

SILK band joins the roster of new recording artists of Sony Music.

Present during the contract signing were band manager Henry Onglatco, Elaine Tadena, Sony Music managing director Wally Chamsay, Coline Hofer, Carmelle Sison, Anier Dayan, Warren de Leon, Sony A&R manager Tato Malay, Jason Balunes and Ruel de los Santos.

Silk performs at Conway's Bar of Makati Shangri-La on Mondays, Strumm's El Pueblo on Wednesdays and Dish at Rockwell on Thursdays. For details, call Real Talent at 897-9751 or 890-8049.

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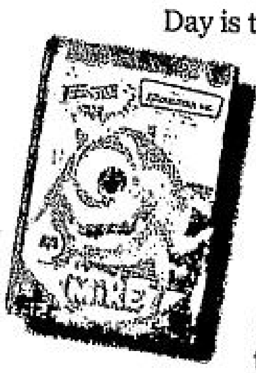
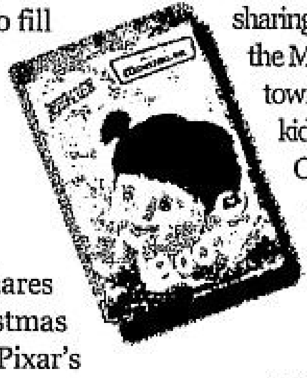
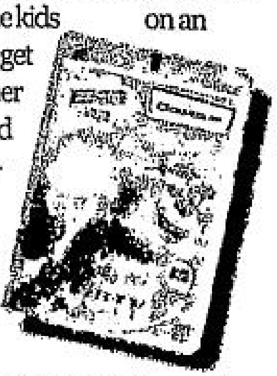
A MONSTERRIFIC CHRISTMAS TREAT

The season of merry-making, of sharing, giving, and loving has come!

It's Christmas once again and everybody's buzzing with excitement. Everybody's rushing to different malls and tiannge's for last minute Christmas shopping. Parents take extra effort when shopping for children's gifts, simply because Christmas is for children. Christmas Day is their day (next to their birthdays, of course!) and it's no wonder why every parent's goal this Christmas is to fill up the children's Christmas stockings with toys!

In this season of giving, Zest-O Juice shares every parents desire to make this Christmas happy and special by featuring Disney Pixar's newest gang from the movie "Monsters, Inc." in Limited Edition boxes and packs of Zest-O Juice Drinks. Take a trip and explore the frightfully funny world of the monsters together with your children! Treat the kids on an exciting adventure as they get acquainted with Boo and her friend monsters, Sulley and Mike, with every sip of Zest-O Juice Drink.

Christmas is sharing and with the Monsters in town, share a laugh or two with the kids this season. The Limited Edition Zest-O Juice Drink available in all leading supermarkets and malls all over Metro Manila. Grab one for the kids! It would definitely be one unforgettable Christmas experience for them!

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Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THANKS to all the people who have gone out of their way to say that they enjoy the TV booboos we occasionally come out with in this space. That's why, when we're at home we keep the TV set on all the time, our ears cocked for those inadvertent, humorous boners.

These days, quite a lot of them are made by quiz-show contestants who are so tense and stressed that the strangest things come out of their mouths. This first one happened only last Nov. 21:

Quizmaster: *Saang* organ *nilalagay ang* pacemaker?

Contestant: Face!

(Wheeee!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Anong* consonant *ang* silent *sa salitang* pneumonia?

Contestant: N!

(No—P!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang tinatanim sa mga* paddies?

Contestant: Cactus!

(Ouch, that hurts!)

* * *

Well, you get the picture? Now, here are some non-quiz-show-related boners:

Host: Do you believe that democracy is a reality in the Philippines?

Guest: Not really, because it's obvious: normal politicians do not receive good treatment in a power-slanted government!

(What in the *world* are "normal" politicians!?)

* * *

Host: So, when will this case finally get to the courts?:

Guest: After we collect enough prostitution witnesses!

(Witnesses for the prostitution?!)

* * *

Host: What is the most difficult part of the legal process?

Guest: Definitely, it is interrogating and cross-examinating the witnesses!

("Examinating?" *Bago 'yon, a*!)

* * *

Host: What's wrong with our government?

Guest: One thing, elitism.

Host: What to you is elitism?

Guest: Elitism is the influence of elitists outside of the government, in the government.

(Duh!)

* * *

Host: Why did you commit the crime? What pushed you?

Guest: I had no chance but doing it!

(Huh?)

* * *

Host: Don't you think there's too much sex and violence in our movies these days?

Guest: You're not the only one to say that. I've also speaken to others about this!

(Wow, "speaken"!)

Disney magic

IN CELEBRATION of 100 years of Disney magic, the Araneta Coliseum presents "Disney on Ice" from Dec. 22 to Jan. 6.

Micky Mouse, Minnie, Pinocchio, Buzz Lightyear, Jiminy Cricket, Woody, and even new favorites from "Mulan," "The Lion King" and "A Bug's Life" will be performing on ice skates.

The opulent presentation is full of breathtaking pair-skating, solos and grand production numbers choreographed by Emmy award-winning Sarah Kawahara. Sixty skaters make up the cast, some of them world champions. The show is currently drawing capacity crowds in Japan.

'Snow White' on video

THE FIRST full-length animated film, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," has been released on video cassette. As an added treat, the cassette also features **Barbra Streisand** singing "Someday, My Prince Will Come."

'Kababaihan'

THE NEW Voice Company will present "Kababaihan," a gala benefit performance of "The Vagina Monologues" (with Filipino music, songs, poetry and testimonies) on Feb. 23, 2002 at the Folk Arts Theater.

The special presentation is the Philippines' participation in the worldwide V-Day event, for the benefit of the Purple Rose Campaign. It features Filipino artists from theater, TV, film, the concert stage, recording, literature and dance.

Other adjunct events include poetry readings, platform discussions, exhibits of works by women artists and creative workshops. To participate or volunteer, call NVC at 896-5497.

MISALUCHA

SALONGA

Lea, Lani guest in Martin's PICC concert

MARTIN Nievera's concert, "A Song for Peace," Dec. 14 and 15 at the PICC, will feature Lea Salonga and Lani Misalucha as special guests on separate nights.

Lea is an artist whose name has become synonymous to international fame and national pride, because of her numerous achievements abroad.

Well-known for her portrayal of Kim in the West End and Broadway productions of the hit musical "Miss Saigon," for which she received the Laurence Olivier, Drama Desk, Outer Critics' Circle and Tony Awards, Lea has captured the international audience which led her to many opportunities worth her caliber.

Just recently, she once again made our country proud during the successful grand premier of the musical, "Flower Drum Song" in Los Angeles.

Though she is now based in New York, Lea visits the country once in a while to give her Filipino followers a taste of her distinct style as a performer. That is why every time she performs here, the response is always overwhelming as expected.

This was evident during the local staging of "Miss Saigon" and "They're Playing Our Song," and her full-packed homecoming and "Songs from the Screen" concerts at the PICC.

Lea has also released multi-platinum albums under BMG Records Pilipinas, proving the fact that she is, indeed, one of the most sought-after and most important artists of our time.

Lea will join Martin onstage on Dec. 15.

Meanwhile, Asia's Nightingale Lani Misalucha also shares center stage with the "concert king."

Fresh from her certified hit major concerts at the Big Dome and at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Lani has already set her mark in the local entertainment industry. She may imitate the singing voices of Barbra Streisand, Whitney Houston, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Jaya and Pilita Corrales, among others, but Lani has managed to create a style of her own.

True to her title, Asia's Nightingale, Lani is more than a singer who can carry a tune. She does it with much vocal power yet with remarkable ease.

Her versatility is no surprise, though. Lani has been in and out of the music scene since the late 1980s, when she started as a vocalist in various bands, a lounge performer and singer for commercial jingles and multiplex tapes.

In 1996, Lani came out with a revival single, "Somebody Warm Like Me," which became an instant hit. Then came a string of local and international stints. The most remarkable of which is having won the best singer award in the 1998 Asia Song Festival, Awit Awards' best female ballad recording artist in 1999 and this year's Album of the Year for "All Heart."

Her recording career continues to flourish as well with a number of hit songs under her name like "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me," "Tunay na Mahal" and "Bukas Na Lang Kita, Mamahalin."

Lani will join Martin on Dec. 14.

In "A Song for Peace," Martin will be accompanied by a 50-piece philharmonic orchestra and a hundred-member chorale under the baton of Louie Ocampo.

The concert is a production of Maxi-Media International. It is also presented by Smart and Axe Deo Cologne, with Farlin Baby Products, Mastercard, Chowking, Marca Leon, Loviscol and Beam Toothpaste.

Tickets at P600, P900, P1,200 and P1,800 (with limited premium seats at P2,400) are now available at all Ticket World outlets in major National Bookstore branches (891-5610), Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place, Tower Records Makati and Alabang, PICC Ticketron (551-6902) and Maxi-Media office (551-5447/5511039).

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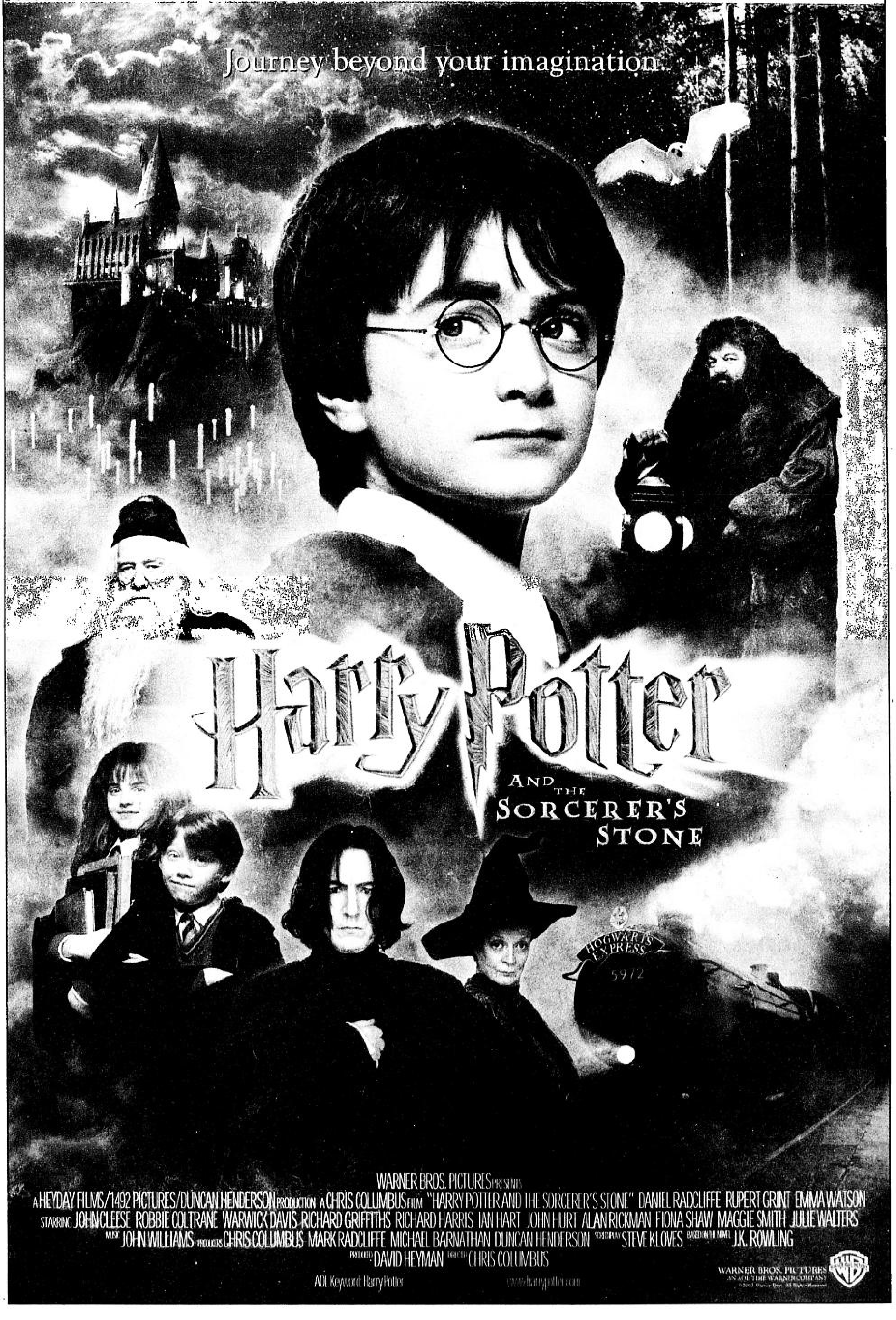
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

The Hunks create frenzy and excitement in Cebu

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I MISSED Monday's column because I hosted part of the ABS-CBN sponsored night in the recently concluded Cebu Ad Congress.

We flew to Cebu at 7 a.m. Friday and flew back to Manila again at 7 a.m. Saturday.

There wasn't much of Cebu for me to see. I was fortunate though, to have been billeted at the Shangri-La Mactan. Arriving in Cebu fresh from taping "Game KNB," I was able to get three hours of sleep before being called to rehearsals.

My hotel room was facing the beach. It had a great view and was the best in terms of beach front accessibility. I would have loved to take a dip, but I knew that I needed to get some shut eye if I wanted to be alert later that night.

What I truly appreciated in the room was that the shower's water pressure was exceptional. I'd have to say that the Shangri-La Mactan's bathroom gave me one of the best showers I've ever had.

Lunch buffet

From one hotel, on to the next. Our rehearsals were at the Marriott in Cebu City. With *Kuya* Dick (**Roderick Paulate**) and **Ai-Ai de las Alas**, I sampled their lunch buffet.

The Marriott is clearly a businessman's hotel. The structure had none of the frills and resort atmosphere of the Shangri-La. But I must commend them on their buffet selection. The salad bar, cold cuts, fresh fruits and cheese were excellent. I sampled their roast chicken from the hot buffet and appreciated the fact that the breast was moist and tender. The waiters were attentive and prompt.

Since there wasn't a room for us to change in at the Waterfront Hotel where the dinner would be held, we were advised to take a shower at the Marriott. **Amy Perez** took a later flight from Manila, so while she was eating a very late lunch, I managed to take a nap.

The Marriott in Cebu had a super cozy and comfortable bed. If it hadn't been for ANC's replay of **Philip Medel**'s breakdown at the Department of Justice, I'd have gladly made the most of the bed and woken up the next day.

From the Marriott, it was straight to Waterfront. Unfortunately I can't give you the lowdown on the Waterfont's guest rooms and bathrooms, since I only got to see the convention area.

I also can't give you feedback on their food since I only had fresh fruits prior to the show. What did impress me was the size of the hotel's lobby, complete with a grand staircase and a sweeping driveway.

Chemistry

During the show, I got to see live, the chemistry of the Whattamen—**Rico Yan**, **Dominic Ochoa** and **Marvin Agustin**.

Dominic is the most natural comedian of the three. He could easily keep up with the punchlines of Ai-Ai.

Marvin is the best dancer. This was clear during the dance sequences of their "Hula Bira" game portion.

Rico is the most articulate. If ever he ventured out into hosting any form of talk show, his boyish charm, intelligence and wit would definitely make him shine, comparable to **Edu Manzano** or **Martin Nievera**.

At last it was back to Shangri-La Mactan at about 1 a.m. I took a shower and promptly fell asleep. My room was right next door to the ones assigned to the Hunks (**Piolo Pascual**, **Diether Ocampo**, **Carlos Agassi** and **Jericho Rosales**).

Concert

If I had a punishing schedule, theirs was much worse since in the afternoon, they were at SM City Cebu to promote their album. They performed at the ABS-CBN show for the Ad Congress delegates, and afterward they had a concert at Jiggy's, Cebu's answer to Hard Rock Café.

Like me, they all came from taping prior to our flight. Diet came from "Recuerdo de Amor," Piolo came from "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka," Carlos came from "Hanggang sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan" and Jericho came from "Pangako sa Yo."

It was amazing to witness what kind of response the Hunks managed to elicit from the women delegates of the Ad Congress. It reminded me of the frenzy and excitement that Menudo generated from us during the peak of their popularity in the mid to late 1980s.

The Hunks can carry a tune, and individually they are all talented and accomplished. But collectively, their effect is mesmerizing because the audience is presented with a group of extremely good looking, physically fit and charismatic young men at their prime.

Had I been a little less exhausted, I would have joined them after their concert when they went out for a little partying, just to get a feel of Cebu's famed nightlife. Too bad, I didn't have their stamina and I really didn't welcome the thought of being the *"manang"* of the group.

Breakfast

All too soon, at 5 a.m. the hotel operator was ringing my wake up call. I had pre-ordered breakfast and since my last meal was lunch the previous day, I devoured my ham, mushroom and cheese omelette. This was served with whole wheat bread which you are to toast in the toaster that your room service tray comes equipped with. Delicious!

On the Cebu Pacific flight back to Manila, our captain was **Chet Cuneta**, **Sharon**'s older brother.

Sharon's brother is really handsome. His looks remind me of **Al Pacino** or **Andy Garcia**. But since I was looking like a worn-out dishrag, I was too embarrassed to say hello.

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A quiet treat waits for Vandolph

A HUGE treat awaits Vandolph Quizon on his recovery, according to his stepfather Mayor Joey Marquez of Parañaque.

The treat, however, is not going to be a lavish party, but a low-key get-together of the entire family to provide "the much needed spiritual and emotional support" to the young comedian, Marquez said.

The family, he said, is planning to take Vandolph to "a place that is very quiet and peaceful," probably to a beach.

"We are longing to have him back," Marquez said. "We'll spend more time with him and we'll never leave his side."

Marquez, who serves as the teen actor's guardian, said he will make sure to "show (Vandolph) how much he loves him."

Vandolph, whose real father is the comedian Dolphy, is staying with Marquez and his wife Alma Moreno, the teen actor's biological mother, in Parañaque.

His family is still in disarray more than a week after Vandolph figured in a life-threatening accident in Pangasinan, according to the mayor.

Since the young comedian was confined at the Makati Medical Center, his loved ones have been strictly monitoring his condition every day, rejoicing over the slightest signs of recovery, Marquez said.

"But I always tell the family not to cry when we're with Vandolph," said Marquez, who goes straight to the hospital right after work. "We have to show strength and optimism to help him recover."

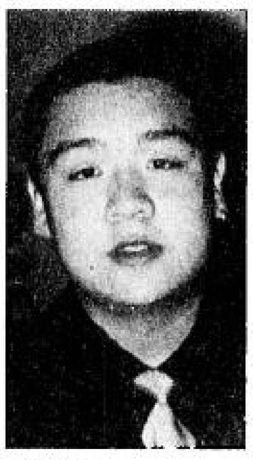
Vandolph, 17, and girlfriend Desiree Raquiza suffered serious head and body injuries when their Ford F-150 slammed into an Elf truck in Pozzorubio town in Pangasinan on Nov. 19.

Vandolph was driving his step-father's truck and reportedly tried to overtake the other vehicle when the accident occurred. He had no driver's license at the time, according to the Land Transportation Office.

But Marquez said he and his family will never blame Vandolph for the accident.

"Nobody wanted that to happen. Our main concern is his speedy recovery. We hope everything will go back to normal."

Vandolph is still under observation at the intensive care unit of the Makati Medical Center, Marquez said.
Christian V. Esguerra



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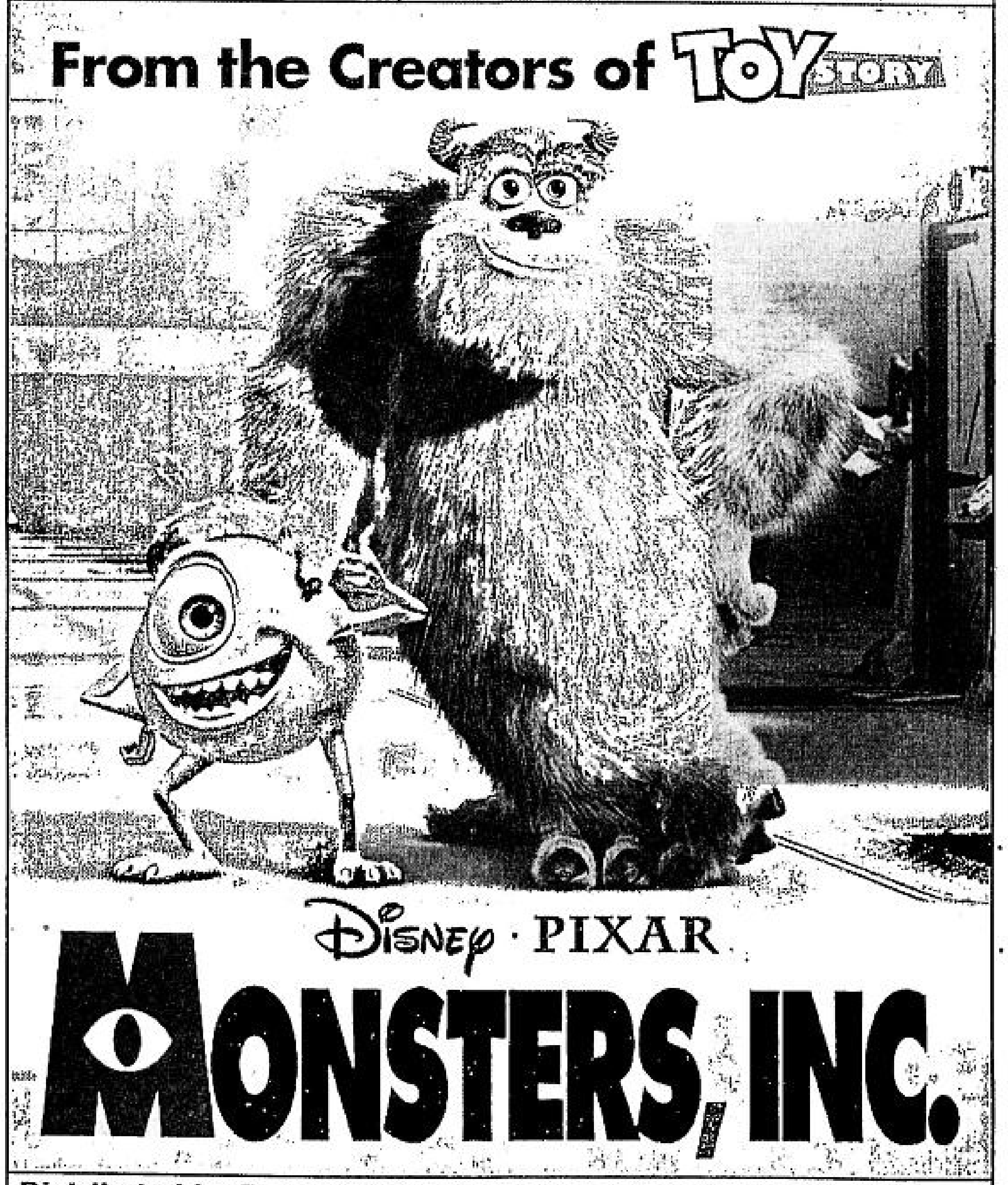

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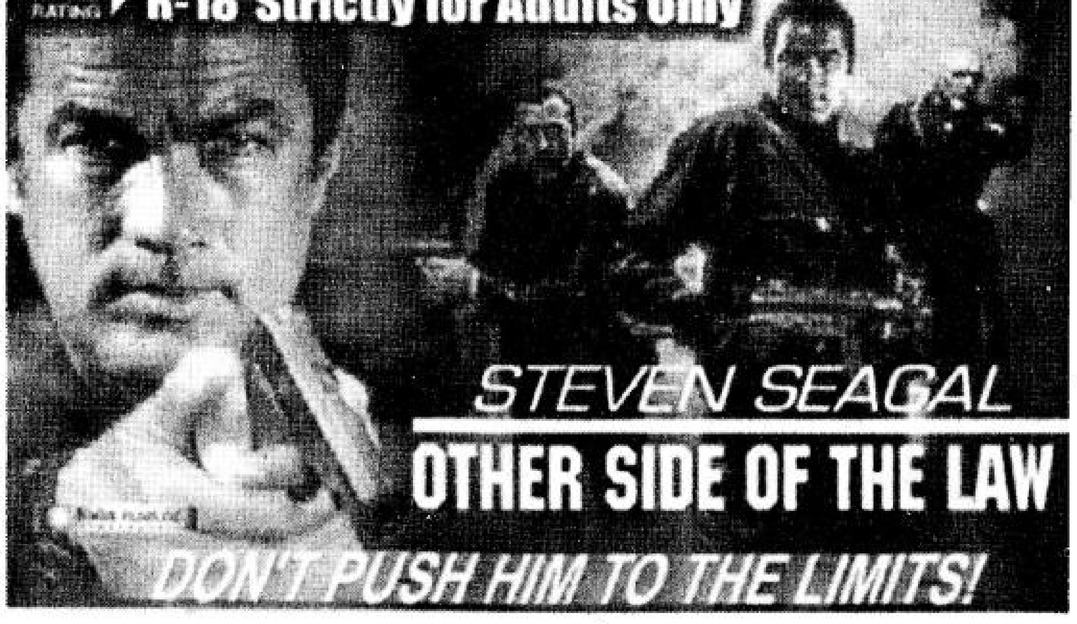
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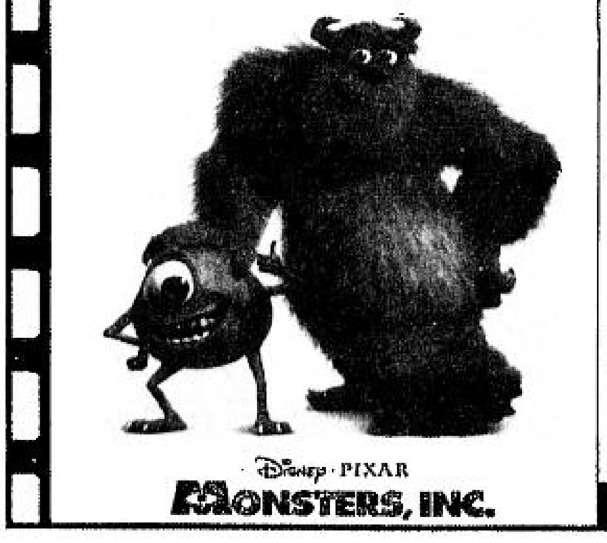

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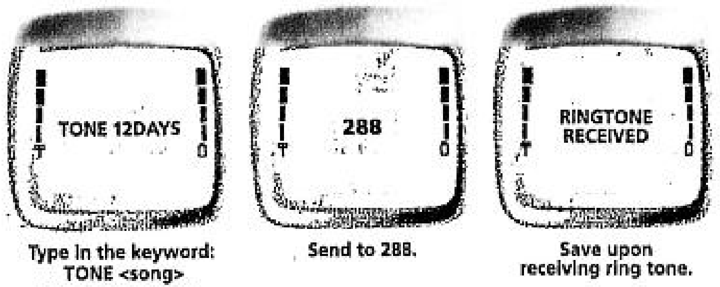
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B1
BUSINESS
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▨ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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Economy grew 2.9% in third quarter

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

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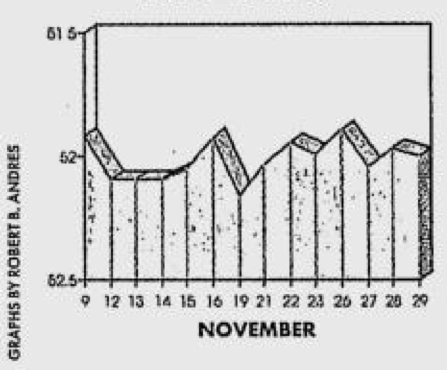

Peso-Dollar Rate

P 52.00 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 29, 2001

¥ 123.14 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 29, 2001

GOLD:$274.40/274.90
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Nov. 29, 2001

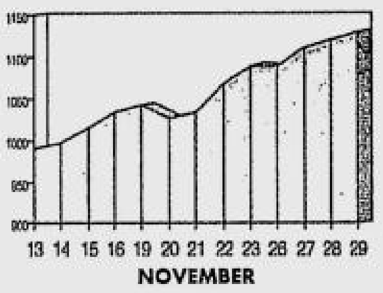
STOCK MARKET

Stocks at 2-month high

SHARES closed at their highest level in over two months yesterday, buoyed by third quarter gross domestic product (GDP) data which was at the high-end of market expectations, traders said.

"The market was up nearly eight points because of the very good development in the economic data," said KGI Securities vice president for sales Henry Ong.

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS/ B9

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE ECONOMY grew by 2.9 percent in the third quarter, slightly better what the government had expected, on strong domestic consumption growth.

The government said it was on track to meet a full-year target of 3.3 percent GDP growth.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said significant personal expenditure growth of 3.3 percent in the third quarter formed the base for the 2.9-percent GDP growth.

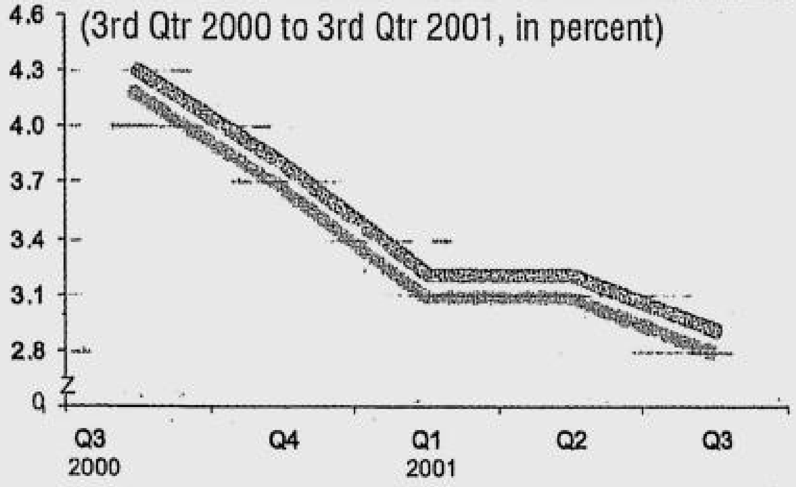
Services grew 4.2 percent, followed by agriculture at 2 percent and industry lagged at 1.6 percent.

"The Philippines will not recede unlike powerhouse economies like Singapore and Taiwan. It will post one of the highest growth rates in East and Southeast Asia, exceeding those of Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong and South Korea," Canlas said.

"All in all, it's quite a reasonable number and suggests the Philippines will go through the global downturn not with spectacular colors but in reasonable shape," said Andrew Fung, Asia-Pacific head of research for Rabobank in Singapore.

"It's pretty much in line with what I was looking for. The nice thing I did see was that Q3 private consumption was up 3.3 percent . . . the expectation was that it would be resilient and the data proved that."

GDP Growth



GDP refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy in a given period while the gross national product (GNP) includes the GDP and the net factor income from abroad, bulk of which comes from remittances of overseas Filipinos.

The country's GNP expanded by 3.7 percent in the third quarter compared with 4.2 percent in the second quarter, bolstered by the 18.4-percent growth in net factor income from abroad.

The GDP growth compares with third-quarter contractions in the economies of trade-reliant Singapore, Malaysia and Taiwan. Hong Kong and Japan are also likely to shrink.

Thailand is looking for 1.6-percent growth, and South Korea has posted 1.8-percent growth in the third quarter. Only Indonesia with 3.47 percent and China with 7 percent have higher third-quarter growth rates than the Philippines in the region.

Both have strong domestic economies and the Philippines was obviously relying on that, discarding its traditional export sector, to take it to a full-year growth target of 3.3 percent.

He said the 3.3-percent full-year target was still attainable provided the recession in the United States would not deepen to drag the rest of the world's economies.

"Despite the risk and uncertainty induced by the war against terrorism, there are some elements which are supportive of a strong performance in the fourth quarter," Canlas said.

"These include declining domestic interest and inflation rates, a decrease in the world price of crude oil and concerted moves by developed countries to cut interest rates and avert a global recession."

He did not mention exports, the main driver of the economy but which have fallen 14.1 percent year-on-year in the January-September period.

"Fortunately, our export sector has weak linkages to the (overall) economy," said Emilio Neri, an economist at Abacus Securities in Manila.

"The global slowdown . . . has been practically confined to the export sector, the rest of the production sector generally appears to be insulated from external events," he added, describing the third-quarter data.

But he said interest rates needed to fall further to push the economy closer to the full-year growth target.

ECONOMY/ B3

WHAT'S INSIDE

▨ **Sy, HK tycoon form joint venture**
/ B5
▨ **SMC confirms talks with foreign brewers**
/ B3
▨ **Singer's RP unit closes shop**
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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, November 29, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53	53.5	51.5	51.5	181,700
China Banking Corp.	510	510	510	510	530
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	22.75	24.75	22.75	24	1,126,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	179	180	175	176	48,190
Philippine National Bank	48.5	49	48.5	49	167,500
Phil. Savings Bank	28	29	28	29	10,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	15	16	15	15	365,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	240	240	240	240	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1350	1350	1350	1350	1,480
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1160	1160	1140	1145	14,850
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26.5	26.5	25.5	25.5	8,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	4,670,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	570	570	570	570	2,540
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.028	0.03	0.028	0.028	4,500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,000
Piltel	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	26,100,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	110,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	422.5	430	422.5	427.5	155,140
Ivantage Corp.	0.6	0.67	0.6	0.65	680,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.022	214,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.5	113,100
Manila Electric Co. B	31	33	31	32	952,900
Petron Corp.	1.5	1.54	1.46	1.5	12,034,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	80,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.7	1.76	1.66	1.72	12,110,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.25	0.32	0.25	0.28	160,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.4	1:3	1.4	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.95	0.96	0.94	0.95	440,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	10,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	180,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.75	521,100
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24.75	24.75	23.75	24.25	52,100
RFM Corp.	2.02	2.18	2.02	2.16	8,136,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41.5	41.5	41	41.5	315,800
San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	51.5	51.5	51.5	130,800
Universal Robina Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	1,402,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.61	0.61	0.59	0.59	30,000
Ayala Corp.	4.85	5.1	4.85	5	13,983,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.46	1.56	1.46	1.48	4,718,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.74	0.77	2,010,000
APC Group Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	31,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8	9.7	8	9.7	14,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.78	0.83	0.76	0.78	23,710,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.06	0.065	0.06	0.065	28,800,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.22	0.2	0.21	12,350,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.11	0.1	0.105	1,400,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	0.95	0.95	800,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2.08	2.1	2.08	2.1	18,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26	28	26	27	432,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.135	4,500,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.155	8,870,000
Ionics Inc.	6.8	7.2	6.8	6.9	182,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	60,000
Macroasia Corp.	1	1	1	1	62,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.68	2,720,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.41	0.32	0.41	38,900,000
Music Corp.	0.46	0.53	0.46	0.52	42,270,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.39	0.42	0.38	0.42	10,620,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	20,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.06	500,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.145	0.13	0.14	3,050,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	50,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.27	0.28	2,030,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Cen Azucar De La Carlota	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	27,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.81	0.82	0.81	0.81	350,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	14,600
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.42	0.45	0.41	0.45	1,490,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	1,020,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	250,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	170,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26	26	25.5	26	1,420,000
Equitable Pci Bank-War	1.5	2.3	1.5	2.1	960,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	560	560	560	560	1,000
Jollibee Warrants	12	12	12	12	3,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0016	0.0014	0.0014	129,000,000
RFM Corp. - Pref.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	39,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	348,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	3,000
Far Eastern University	415	415	415	415	10
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	5	4.9	5	10,708,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.21	3,360,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.34	0.36	0.33	0.35	6,490,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.245	0.26	0.245	0.25	9,230,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	5,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.68	1.72	1.64	1.68	6,807,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.18	0.18	50,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	1	0.85	1	690,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	3,098,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.07	0.095	0.07	0.09	2,400,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	50,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co., Inc. A	0.24	0.3	0.24	0.3	210,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	10,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.4	28,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.025	0.025	0.023	0.023	42,400,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	2,470,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	[illegible]	0.155	0.145	0.155	5,360,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.003	0.003	0.0028	0.0028	18,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	80,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	4,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.13	200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	5,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	9,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,916,150	78,449,105.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,003,616,590	412,282,215.00
PRO	42,890,000	90,423,970.00
Mining	162,868,000	2,769,500.00
OIL	14,000,000	226,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	1,225,290,740	584,150,790.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	444.24	DOWN 1.85
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,574.34	UP 15.55
PRO	505.97	UP 5.97
Mining	1,012.30	UP 17.81
OIL	1.39	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	700.92	DOWN 7.14
Composite	1,128.47	UP 7.90

NO. OF ADVANCES: 60; NO. OF DECLINES: 33; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 23; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 116; NO. OF TRADES: 4,837

CURRENCIES

Nov. 29, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.125999	1.000000	52.0240
Japan	Yen	0.009149	0.008125	0.4227
United Kingdom	Pound	1.605788	1.426100	74.1914
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144393	0.128235	6.6713
Switzerland	Franc	0.683916	0.607386	31.5986
Canada	Dollar	0.710858	0.631313	32.8434
Singapore	Dollar	0.614965	0.546150	28.4129
Australia	Dollar	0.586764	0.521105	27.1100
Bahrain	Dinar	2.986894	2.652661	138.0020
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.300275	0.266674	13.8734
Brunei	Dollar	0.612622	0.544070	28.3047
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000096	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025556	0.022696	1.1807
UAE	Dirham	0.306645	0.272331	14.1677
Korea	Won	0.000892	0.000792	0.0412
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.888100	46.2025
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.454078	23.6230
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135390	7.0435
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.403002	20.9658
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064541	3.3577
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022015	1.1453
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000459	0.0239
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.149368	7.7707
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.00443	0.2305
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005338	0.2777
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022015	1.1453
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.127654	58.6651

DISCLOSURES

CENTRO Escolar University declared cash dividends of P0.10 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Dec. 10 and shall be payable on Dec. 17.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Central Azucarera Don Pedro were **Pedro Roxas, Miguel Gaspar, Gloria Tan-Climaco, Delfin Lazaro, Antonio Roxas, Santiago Elizalde and Carlos Dominguez.**

* * *

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. denied having any information that could explain the increase in its share price that went from P0.40 to P0.60 per share.

* * *

LIBERTY Flour Mills Inc. announced the election of Ricardo Gella as independent director of the company.

* * *

BASIC Consolidated Inc. announced the resignation of Oscar de Venecia Jr. as director of the company and all its subsidiaries. Elected to replace him was Eusebio Tanco.

* * *

GUOCO Holdings Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 20, 10 a.m. at the Penthouse of BA-Lepanto Building, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of Nov. 16 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

MPC drops plan to sell Nenaco

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY developer Metro Pacific Corp. has scrapped plans to unload its controlling stake in shipping firm Negros Navigation Co. through the transfer of the shares to its shareholders due to its failure to obtain approval from creditors and regulatory agencies.

As such, MPC chair and acting CEO Manuel Pangilinan said the shipping firm would be among the assets that would remain with MPC once it has divested its 69.6-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp., developer of the 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Instead of rushing to sell Nenaco, the earlier plan was for MPC to dispose of its entire equity interest in the shipping firm by distributing these as dividends to its shareholders. With the transaction, MPC will thus be able to take out Nenaco from its balance sheet, as the shipping firm will cease to be a subsidiary.

"As previously announced, the proposed dividend distribution of Nenaco was conditional on MPC and Nenaco obtaining requisite approvals from creditors and regulatory agencies. These approvals have not been obtained, hence, the MPC board's decision (to drop the plan)," a company disclosure said yesterday.

But Pangilinan said it was not bad to retain Nenaco in MPC's books because the shipping firm's cash flow has been improved by its financial restructuring. MPC earlier agreed to wipe out Nenaco's total debts amounting to P1.7 billion as part of the restructuring and was also earlier planning to earmark P1 billion in fresh capital for the company.

The capital restructuring will increase the shares held by MPC, which originally owned only 55 percent of Nenaco when it bought into the shipping firm in 1998, to 87 percent of total equity.

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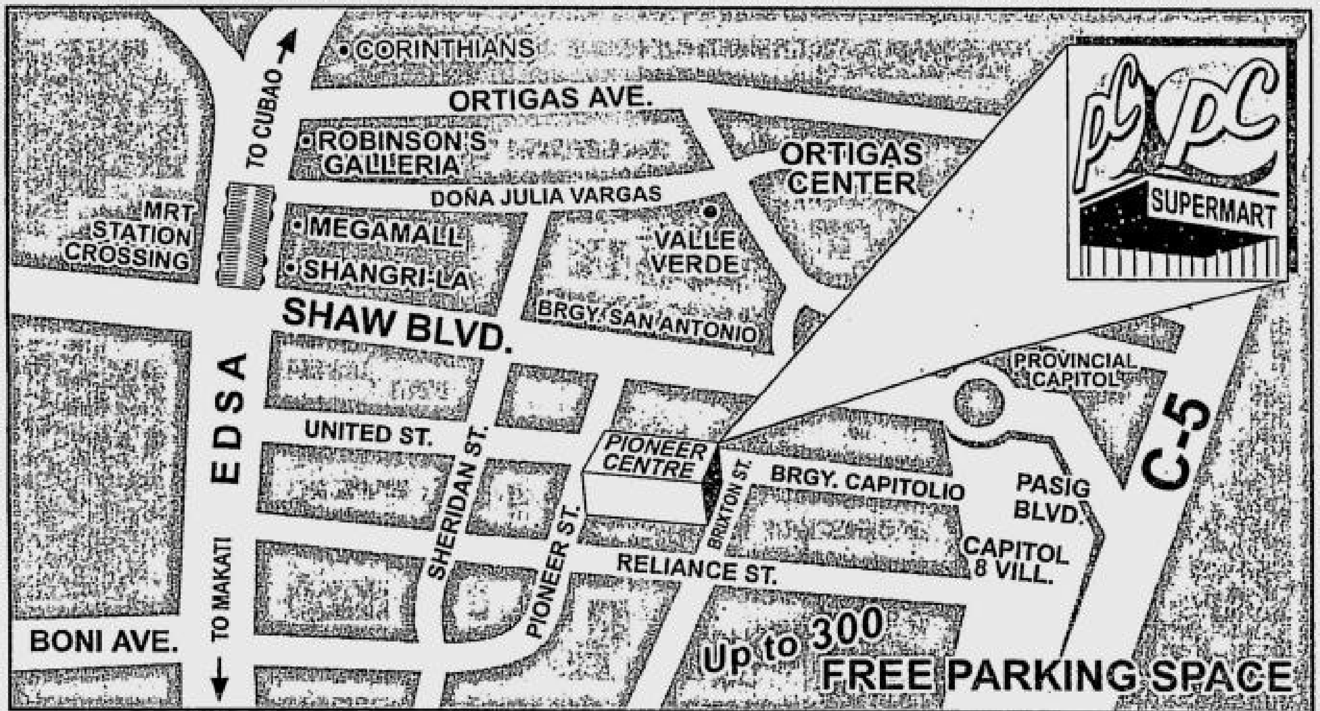

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SCHEDULE OF FREE SEMINARS

DATE / TIME	TITLE OF SEMINAR	PRESENTED BY:
29 November 2001		
11am - 12nn	Product Presentation	Inca Plastics Phils
3pm - 4pm	Valugard: Total Auto Preservation	Valugard
4pm - 5pm	BusinessOpportunities in the Relaunch of Permatex in the Phils.	Permatex / Timken
30 November 2001		
2pm - 3pm	New Technology Tools & Equipment, Chemical Products & Assembly Systems For Use in the Automotive Industry	Centro-Aire Inc.
4pm - 5pm	Magnetic Treatment of Fuel	Taytan Int'l.
5pm - 6pm	Product Presentation	King Shoes Manufacturing
1 December 2001		
11am - 12nn	Brake Pads & Fuel Injection EFI	Quantum Spares
1pm - 2pm	New POLYGuard Bull Bars Launching	Liftruk Int'l Trading
2pm - 3pm	Universal Tools Presentation	Wiha Far East Company
3pm - 4pm	Defensive Driving Seminar	Nissan Motor Philippines
4pm - 5pm	Eyquem Spark Plugs Presentation	Eascorp Automotive
5pm - 6pm	Uniq Engine Treatment Product Presentation	Bizcom Int'l Corp.
2 December 2001		
3pm - 4pm	Product Presentation	Dayco Automotive Belts
5pm - 6pm	Turbo Stormy Air-Fuel Mixture Technology Demonstration	Bizcom Int'l Corp.

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Coco loco

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

COCOBANK chair Jeronimo Kilayko, president Lorenzo Tan and other top bank officers are in a legal pickle over an internal bank memo that acknowledged that the bank had overbilled a defaulting client by more than P120 million.

Worse, the confidential memo had apparently been inadvertently handed over by a bank officer to the client, E. Ganzon Inc., in the course of a series of *dacion en pago* (foreclosure) talks.

Now EGI is suing United Coconut Planters Bank for fraud and other deceits, after the bank refused to acknowledge and return the alleged overpayment.

A real estate developer, EGI defaulted, in the aftermath of the Asian currency crisis, on P720 million in loans it had availed of through the years from Cocobank. By December 1999, the obligations had ballooned to more than P915 million.

To make a long story short, Cocobank in a friendly foreclosure took over the EGI-Rufino Plaza on Taft Avenue and Buendia, as well as other EGI properties.

According to the grapevine, it was during one of the cordial bank-client meetings in the Cocobank head office that the "smoking gun" document got apparently mixed up with the files of EGI senior vice president Grace Layug.

Signed by Cocobank vice president Jaime Jacinto and assistant VP Emily Lazaro, the crucial document specifically requested Kilayko, Tan, corporate secretary Virgilio Jacinto and first VP Enrique Gana for approval of the "final settlement" of EGI obligations.

The catch, however, is that the *dacion en pago* settlement listed "two sets of computation, specifically the actual amount and the disclosed amount to EGI," wrote Jacinto and Lazaro, the actual amount being about P150 million as against the "disclosed" amount of P267 million plus.

What all the more complicated the problem for Kilayko and company is that the wayward memo showed him and all the officers named as having okayed the settlement/overpayment.

To protect itself after EGI presented the memo and asked for a refund, Cocobank sued EGI for theft of the document. EGI, unfortunately for the bank, won that round before the Makati Prosecutors' Office, but Cocobank is appealing the case before the Department of Justice.

In its defense, Cocobank claimed that the "actual" figures were listed merely to comply with Bangko Sentral-booking standards "solely for purposes of the entry thereof in the bank's books of account."

In other words, the arrangement is something similar to the two sets of financial statements being kept by Binondo businesses—one for the BIR and one for their own shareholders.

Picking on Marcelo

SOMEONE in Malacañang has been sleeping on the job.

Pacifico "Pic" Marcelo, the current darling of the opposition for boasting that he can bring the Macapagal administration down, is actually a government man.

Marcelo is still a Malacañang representative to the sequestered Philippine Communications Satellite Corp., having been appointed by Joseph Estrada to the Philcomsat board in the final months of the Estrada presidency along with Erap lawyer Edward Serapio.

In fact, Marcelo has just been given a brand-new Honda CRV by the Erap holdover board in Philcomsat, along with Jinggoy buddy/Philcomsat chair Carmelo "Butch" Africa and director/lawyer Federico Agcaoili.

Marcelo's plan to set up a telecom clearinghouse harks eerily back to the Marcos years when Philcomsat was the telecom checkpoint, where all incoming/outgoing overseas phone calls were coursed through it.

And just like police checkpoints, the Marcelo plan will impose a toll for every telecom passage.

Heard through the grapevine

ILOILO Rep. Augusto Syjuco has received anywhere between P100 million and P150 million from the San Miguel-Cosmos deal in exchange for him dropping the lawsuit against the buy-out/merger.

Now, now, before the tongues start wagging, the Porsche Boxster that the gentleman from Iloilo has been seen driving around during weekends is not a windfall from the sale.

That entry-level Porsche was acquired last year, long before the Concepcions had even began discussions with San Miguel. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

SMC confirms talks with foreign brewers

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. yesterday confirmed it was in talks with several major brewers in order to get additional equity infusion to fund its expansion program.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, SMC said it aimed to cement a strategic partnership that would allow the company to "sustain and enhance SMC's competitive position in the regional food and beverage industry, particularly the beer industry in which SMC is the dominant player."

SMC did not identify the potential investors but INQUIRER sources earlier said that among the foreign strategic partners being considered by SMC were Inter-Brew of Belgium, Kirin Brewery and Asahi Brewery. *(See INQUIRER, Nov. 29, 2001, page B1.)*

"The company is at present in discussion with a leading brewer. San Miguel management expressed optimism in its search for a strategic partner, adding that such a partnership would result in a much needed foreign exchange inflow and a vote of confidence from the international business community for the Philippine economy," the disclosure said.

"The equity infusion resulting from such a partnership would be used to upgrade and expand facilities of existing and newly acquired businesses; fund related new ventures such as San Miguel's logistics network; strengthen the company's balance sheet, and fund future acquisitions," it explained.

Economy

(From page B1)

"If the central bank would move some more in bringing down overnight interest rates to boost businesses and the economy as a whole, the 3.3-percent target may be achievable," Neri said.

National Statistical Coordination Board Secretary General Romulo Virola explained the slower growth in the third quarter was due to an across-the-board slowdown of all three major growth drivers.

Weak manufacturing output, for instance, dragged down the growth of the industry sector to 1.6 percent from 3.6 percent the same period last year. This sector contributed 0.6 percentage of the 2.9-percent gross domestic product (GDP) during the third quarter.

On the other hand, the growth of agriculture, fishery and forestry sector sharply fell to 2 percent from 5.9 percent in the second quarter as almost all sub-sectors of agriculture, except for corn, sugarcane and livestock, grew at a slower pace. The sector contributed 0.4 percentage of the third quarter GDP growth.

Meanwhile, the industry sector remained relatively robust with a growth of 4.2 percent, although slightly lower than the 4.9 percent in the second quarter. It was the biggest contributor to the GDP, contributing 1.9 percent percentage points of the total 2.9-percent growth. Private services, trade, transportation, communication and storage were the best performers. ***With a report from Reuters***

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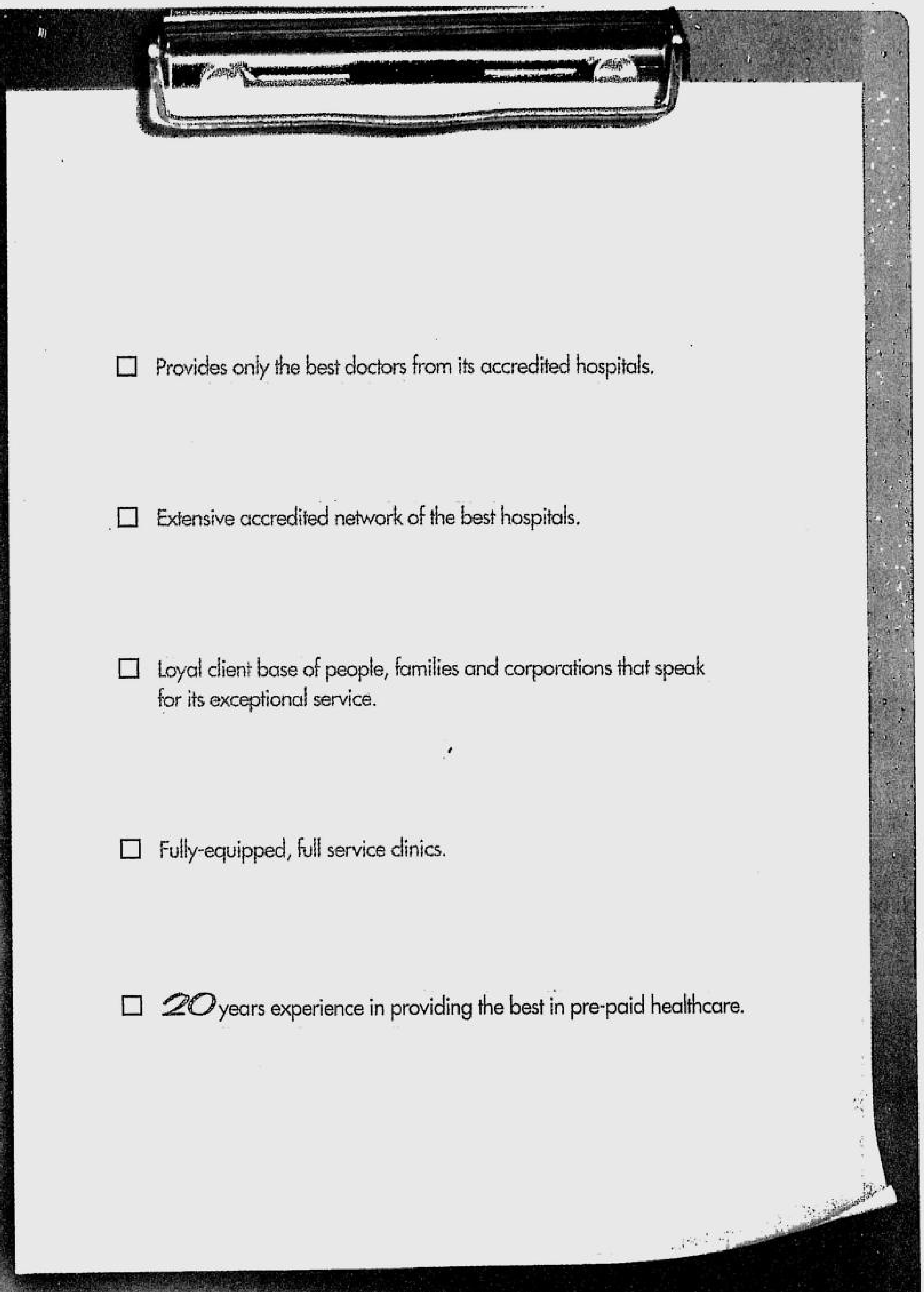

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RP's $450-M eurobond issue oversubscribed

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT has sold $450 million worth of five-year Euro bonds (equivalent to 500 million euros) to European, Asian and American investors who were willing to buy an additional $270 million in sovereign debt notes.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the borrowing was two times oversubscribed and orders were placed in excess of 800 million Euro, prompting the government to turn down some investors.

The sovereign borrowing was made in behalf of state-owned National Power Corp.

With a spread of five percentage points over mid-market swaps and 5.25 percentage points over German bonds of similar tenor, investors would enjoy a yield of 9.41 percent. The coupon rate was set at 9.375 percent.

The rate was comparable with the four-year dollar bonds issued by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that offered a coupon rate of 9 percent.

The slight premium on the fresh sovereign debt, traders said, was understandable since investors knew the funds would be channeled to cash-strapped Napocor, which has yet to secure a reinsurance coverage for its facilities.

Camacho said the pricing of the issue was even lower than the indications the government had received during a roadshow in European and Asian cities in previous weeks.

"This is an indication of confidence that investors have placed on the medium- to long-term agenda of the Philippine government. The confidence was manifested in the reduced price and increased size of the Euro borrowing," the finance secretary said.

Energy Secretary Vince Perez said the bigger-than-expected size of the borrowing would finance the needs of the Napocor this year.

"This puts to bed the requirements of Napocor for 2001 and prepares us for the upcoming privatization starting next year," Perez said.

Napocor needs $530 million this year but may postpone some of its payables for next year. The proceeds would be used to pay its P15 billion in advances from the national government as well as maturing foreign loans.

Napocor would need about $1 billion in loans next year to pay its maturing obligations and finance its costly operating and capital expenses.

Camacho said the deal that the government had sealed was much better than if the power firm were to issue the bonds directly. The finance secretary said the spread on the borrowing would have gone up by three-quarters-of-a-percentage point had the Napocor done it.

The Philippine government has an outstanding 350 million euro borrowing that would mature in 2004 that was priced at 4.8 percentage points over the London interbank offered rate.

Camacho recognized that the fresh euro bond carried a premium of 20 basis points but the government was able to swing for a longer tenor as the bonds would mature in 2006.

The euro borrowing was signed yesterday in Manila by its three lead arrangers—Deutsche Bank, Salomon Smith Barney and UBS Warburg—as well as its co-managers JP Morgan Chase and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

European investors accounted for 60 percent of the total offering, while Asian and American investors bought 20 percent each.

ADB seen to release $200-M loan to RP

THE ASIAN Development Bank is expected to release soon the second installment of the power sector reform loan worth $200 million which could be used by the national government to help plug the budget deficit this year.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said there was a good chance that the ADB and with Japan Bank for International Cooperation would release the $200-million program loan that was linked to reforms in the power sector.

A program loan is normally used to finance the budget and the $200 million would translate to more than P1 billion in additional funding for the Philippine government, which is hard-pressed to contain its deficit this year to P145 billion.

The $600-million power sector loan would be shared by the ADB and the Japanese bank. A third installment also worth $200 million should be disbursed before the loan program lapses in September 2002.

Finance Undersecretary Nieves Osorio said the government could deliver the remaining condition set by the lending agencies for the second tranche.

She said the ADB and the Japanese bank wanted an assurance that the balance sheet of National Power Corp.'s residual entity—Power Sector Asset Liability Management Corp. or Psalm—would remain financially viable.

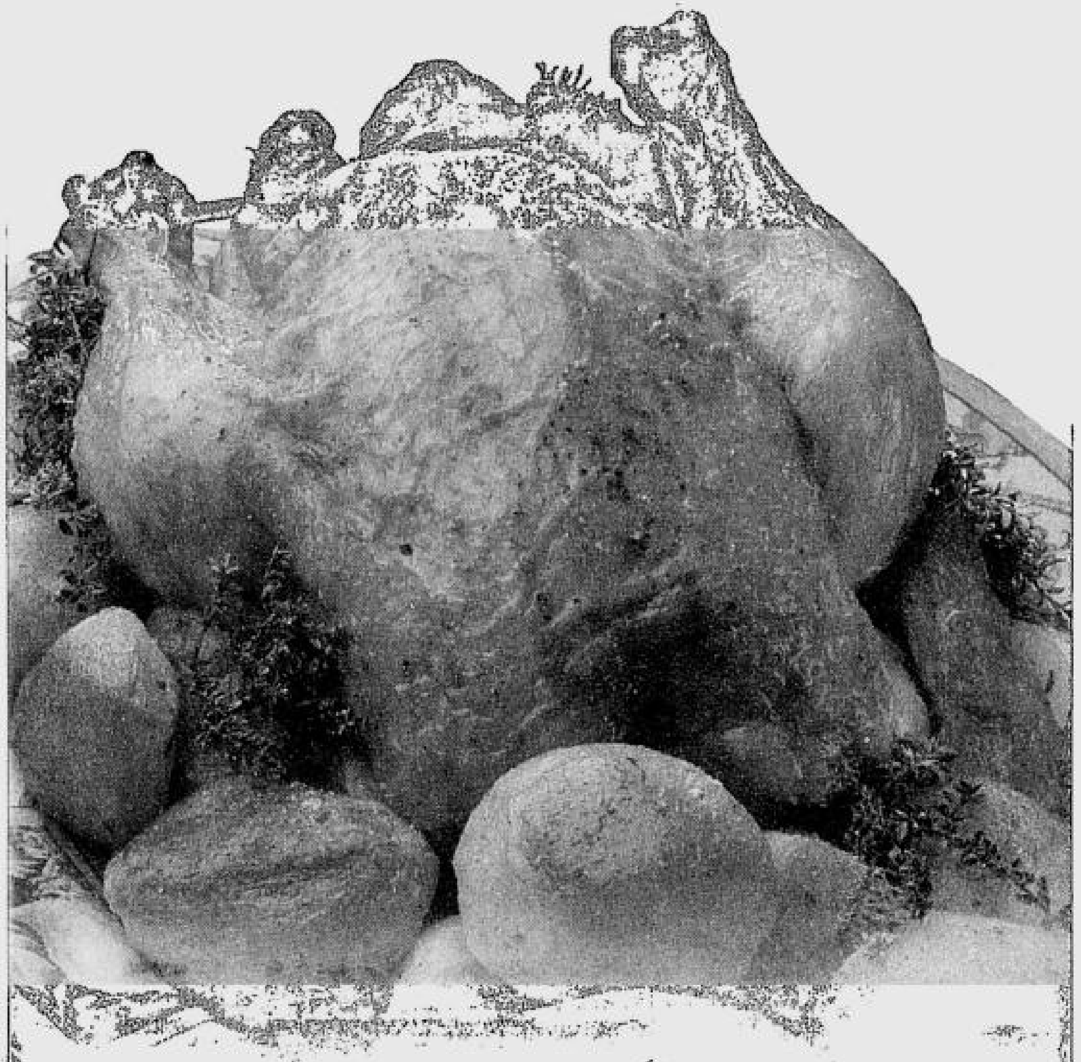
"We have to show in the treatment of accounting that Psalm would remain bankable. We have more or less completed this," Osorio said.

Camacho said the government was confident that the P145-billion budget gap target would be met.

He admitted that the sale of property of the Philippine Estates Authority to Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. would have to push through for the government to receive P10 billion in dividends from the PEA.

The government is planning to ask the ADB to extend the deadline of the power sector loan by at least a quarter to end-December 2002 from the original timetable of September to prevent the program from expiring and meeting the fate of the banking sector reform loan.

'Tis The Season Not To Get Fat



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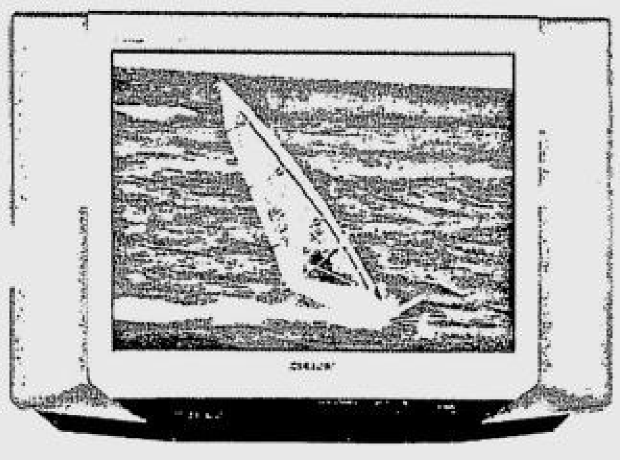

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Sy, HK tycoon to spend $250M for RP venture

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CHINESE tycoon Li Ka-shing and retail king Henry Sy have agreed to spend as much as $250 million to bring to the Philippines Watson's Your Personal Store, Hong Kong's leading medicine and personal care retail chain.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said Li's diversified Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. and Sy's SM Prime Holdings have formed a 60-40 venture that would build 250 drug stores and health and beauty shops under the Watson's banner in the Philippines over the next several years.

Representatives of Hutchison and SM Prime met with Roxas yesterday to announce their company's plan to file for pre-qualification under the Retail Trade Liberalization Act with the Board of Investments.

Roxas estimated that each Watson's store would cost between $500,000 and $1 million, including the cost of initial inventory and store workforce. This will be on top of the investments to be made for its backroom operations for commissary and logistics.

He said Hutchison's entry into the country was a testament to the strength of the domestic economy amid the global crisis and a major boon to local manufacturers as he expects the venture to source at least 30 percent of its merchandise locally. Also, Roxas said Watson's would give Filipinos access to cheaper medicine.

Hutchison is just the third foreign retailer which will go into the country two years after the sector, which was limited to Filipinos for half a century, was finally opened up to alien investors.

American warehouse retailer PriceSmart has already established several branches in the country, while fast-food giant McDonald's has obtained the green light to take direct control of its retail business in the country.

Hutchison has apparently gotten over the unfair treatment it experienced five years ago. It offered the best price for the container terminal project in Subic Bay, but International Container Terminal Services Inc. was able to successfully block the awarding of the contract by invoking the mandatory Filipino equity requirement in the operation of a public utility. ICTSI has since joined with another losing Filipino bidder, Royal Port Services Inc., to put up the container terminal at the former American naval base.

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ASB seeks support of 2 creditors

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE ASB group of companies is negotiating with creditors United Coconut Planters Bank and Malayan Insurance Inc. of the Yuchengcos to get their support for the group's rehabilitation.

ASB financial advisor Monico Jacob said the property group was in discussions to persuade Malayan Insurance to drop its objection to the plan..

Malayan Insurance last year asked the Securities and Exchange Commission, which has jurisdiction over the ASB group's rehabilitation case, to exclude the ASB-Malayan Towers from assets claimed by ASB.

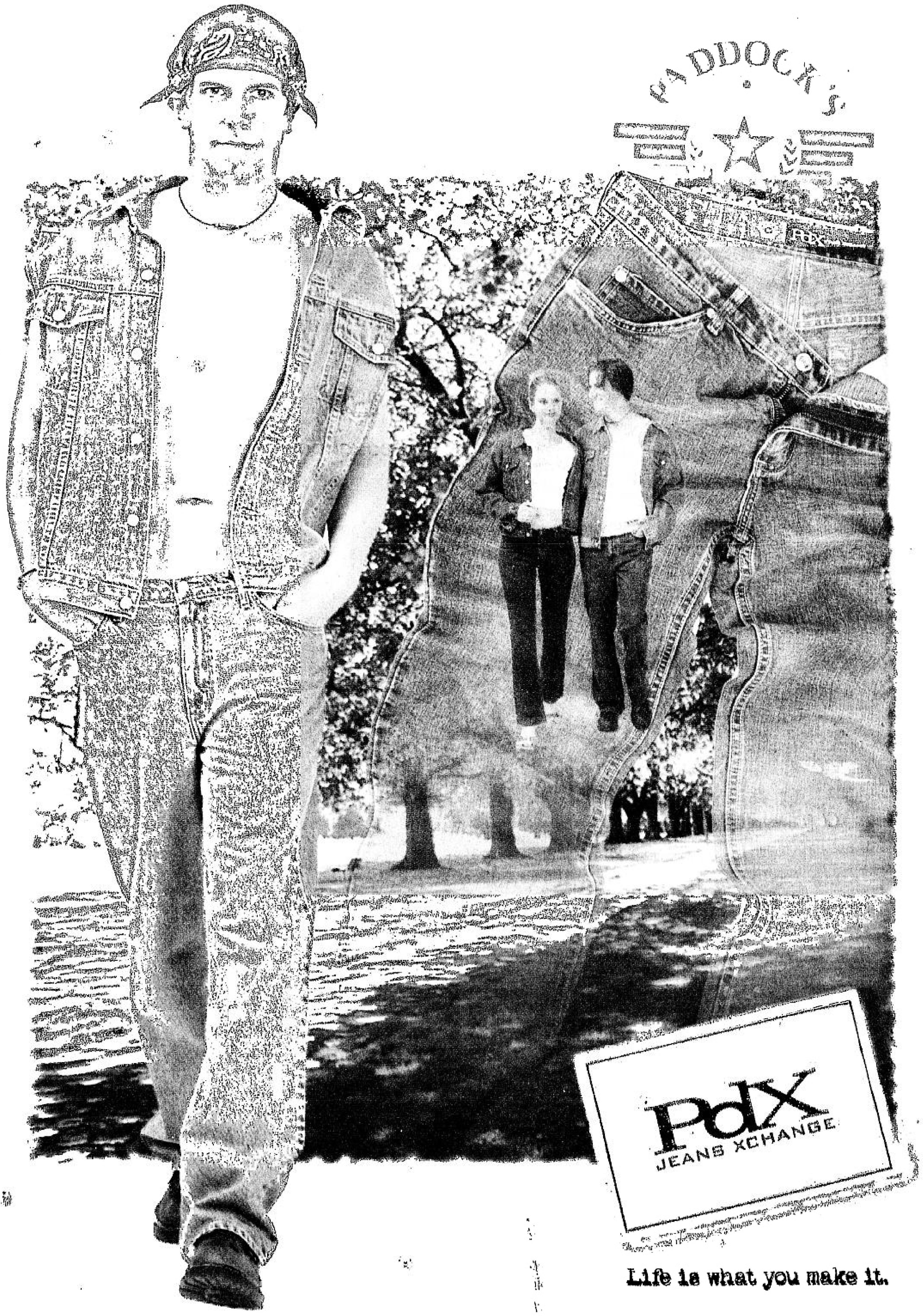
The non-life insurance firm told the SEC said that it had documents—a certificate of registration, license to sell and master deed—that proved it legally owned the ASB-Malayan Tower in Ortigas.

The company stressed that excluding the project from the assets of ASB would allow the insurer to continue completion of the project.

Jacob said that ASB was also working out dacion en pago or payment-in-kind arrangements with UCPB similar to those agreements recently concluded with other banks, namely Allied Bank Corp., International Exchange Bank and DBS Philippines.

The ASB group has recently created a project governing board to help implement the rehabilitation plan.

The board is chaired by SEC-appointed interim receiver Fortunato Cruz, with ASB owner Luke Roxas representing the distressed group and Leonardo Siguion-Reyna, who will represent unsecured creditors, as members. A representative from the trustee bank, Bank of Commerce, is also a member but without voting rights.



BSP POLICY RATES CUT

Nov. inflation seen at 4.5%

By Doris C. Dumlao

SOCIOECONOMIC Planning Secretary Dante Canlas yesterday said the country's inflation rate was expected to further slow down to 4.5 percent in November from 5.4 percent in October which would give monetary authorities more elbow room to reduce interest rates.

With the favorable inflation figures, Canlas said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas could still cut its overnight rates by at least another 25 basis points.

The BSP's overnight borrowing and lending rates stood at 8.25 percent and 10.5 percent, respectively.

Explaining his projection of a 4.5-percent inflation rate for November, Canlas said: "There's the base effect of the 6-percent (inflation) in the same month last year and the continued slowdown of the inflation rate based on the consumer price index."

The National Statistics Office is set to release on Wednesday the official inflation report for November.

The inflation rate has been slowing down due to the combined impacts of the oil price rollbacks, favorable weather conditions and weak consumer demand.

Canlas said that the continued decline in interest rates and the drop in crude oil prices were among the factors that have been supporting the country's economic growth.

CANLAS

Chinese airline starts flying to Laoag

LAOAG CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo is scheduled to arrive here today to welcome the inaugural flight of China Southern Airlines from Guangzhou, China.

The CSA's 150-seat Airbus 320 is expected to arrive here at 7:30 p.m. with Philippine consulate officers and Chinese officials, according to Hong Cheung Travel Philippines, a Hong Kong-based travel firm.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon is expected to join the maiden flight.

The inaugural flight from Guangzhou is the fourth international route to this city next to Kaoushiung, Macau and Hong Kong.

Like the other existing routes, the Guangzhou-Laoag-Guangzhou route will have three flights a week. The maiden flight was earlier scheduled for Oct. 2.

Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said the entry of another airline from China would be another breakthrough in making the province the gateway of Northern Luzon to Southeast Asia.

Gordon promised to shift tourism promotion efforts to this city and the Ilocos provinces to make the region an alternative tourist destination next to Palawan and other vacation spots in Southern Philippines.

Laoag was recently chosen "top tourist destination," along with Boracay Island in Aklan, in the annual search for the most attractive tourist spots in the country. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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- Warpath Computer Zone (1575 Espana St.)
- Macasleb Store (959 Prudencio St.)
- Gertrude Drugs (1916 P. Florentino St.)
- Bytes and Bullet (1039 A. Maceda St.)
- Marlton Pharmacy and Appliance Center (1500 A. Maceda St.)
- Ultratech Computer Center (1423 Casanas St.)
- Kal Link System (1726 P. Florentino St.)
- Star Intracor Inc. (850 A-1 P. Noval Remy's Store - Moret St.)
Sta. Mesa
- Royale Employment Agency (3037 v. Mapa st.)
- Old Sta. Mesa Construction Supply (4859 Old Sta. Mesa)
- New Society gen. Merchandise (4044 Old Sta. Mesa)
- Madwolf Cyber Station (Old Sta. Mesa)
Tondo
- Dads Networld (Juan Luna St., Gagalangin)
Sta. Ana
- F19 Computer Station (M. Roxas St.)

QUEZON CITY
- The Project 8 Store - Shorthand St. (Bahay Toro, D1)
- Carmen Carlos Sari-Sari Store (Shorthand St., Bahay Toro)
- Noce Computer Center (Araneta Bargain Center, Cubao)
Pag-asa
- www.Tambayan.com (Rd. 1, Pag-Asa)
- AC General Merchandise (89 Mindanao Ave.)
- Joey-Fran's Place Restaurant (7 Mindanao Ave.)
- Leony Store & Gen. Mdse. (Rd 2. Bagong Pag-Asa)

MANDALUYONG
- Abble Joy Gen. Mdse. (Gen. Kalentong St.)
- Petabytes (Gen. Kalentong St.)
- Cyberace (Gen. Kalentong St.)
- B&R Store (V. Fabella St.)
- System Runtime Computer Center (Unit 3 Shaw Blvd.)
- Click@me Computer Center (Shaw Blvd.)
- Command Post (Pag Asa St.)
- Intra Cellular Trading (StarMall)

PASIG
- Cosmic.net (132 Dr. Sixto Ave. Caniogan)
- Page-Rite Graphics (286 Dr. Sixto Ave.)
- J-Jireh Cyber Café - 20 Alcalde Jose St. Kapasigan)
- Catreena Video Shop (239-B Dr. Sixto Ave. Caniogan)
- Cyber Crawler Computer Center (91 C. raymundo Ave. Caniogan)
- Emel Store (210 Dr. Sixto Ave., Caniogan)
- Kim United Enterprise (4 Pasig Blvd. Rotonda)
- Louie.net Compter Shop (67 Pasig Blvd Ext. Rotonda)
- Agtam Trading Inc. (702 B shaw blvd. Capitol)
- N.S. Lim Trading (3 San Rafael St. B Capitolyo)

SAN JUAN
- Ken Kath foodmart & Gen Mercandise - 138 F. Blum
- Julius School & Office Supply - 107 N. Domingo St.
- Lucky Fortune Gen. Mdse. - N. Domingo St., San Juan Viramall
- R.O. Gen Merchandise (76 Ylang Ylang Lane 3/f)
- Sally's Jewerlies (6 outlets) (52/54 Magnolia Lane, 3rd flr)
- Accurate Business Machines Inc. (Unit G-B 2/f Molave Lane)
- Interlink Computer Center (unit 1-10 2/f)
- World Wide Video (67 Molave Lane 2/f)
- OMI Enterprise (2/f Stall #10)
- IFB / Hello World Marketing (#19 Catleya Lane 3/f)
- Prince Telecom (#32 3/f Sampaguita Lane)
- Unitech (2F Lanka Lane Viramall, Greenhills
- Genovation Technology Tech. (Avocado Lane)
- Abacus Micro Computer (Narra Lane 2/f)
- Intra Cellular Trading (Pearl Lane GF)
- Nautilis Communications (2F Dao Lane)

MAKATI
Pasong Tamo
- Touch Point Trading (2/f Makati Cinema Square Chino Roces Ave.)
J.P. Rizal
- Baloon City

MUNTINLUPA
- Cellphone Accessories J.B. Abboh Marketing (Basement Flr.)
- Metropolis Mall Alabang

MARIKINA
- Comets Dry Goods (Concepcion Bayanbayan)
- Laser Electronics (Lilac St., SSS Village)

VALENZUELA
- Ka Yeung Tea House (#2 Rincon St. (elsa Bldg. Malinta)
- Head-Pro Barbershop & Beauty Parlor (1 Gov. I Santiago St. Malinta)
- NU-3x Computer Shop (#7 G. Lazaro St. Daladaran Valenzuela City)
- VGL Gift Shop & Gen. Merchandise (8 Gov. Santiago Malinta)
- L.A. & Nach Computers (Policarpio St. Gen. T. De Leon)
- Czarels (Unit 4-A Halina Comm'l Complex Malinta)

CALOOCAN
- Acebedo Optical (256 Samson Rd.)
- Earl Computer Center (G/F LRT Northmall)
- Columbia Caloocan Photo (37 Bustamante St.)
- Benin Drugstore (106 E Benin St. Monumento)
- Seva Pharmaceutical (#49 Bonifacio St. Shopping Center)
- M.C. abc (G/F Gotesco Grandcentral)
- Ubica Merchandising (11-B-b Susana St.)
- Selig Enterprise (370 Rizal Ave., Ext. Grace Park)
- Smartlink Computer Rental (B. Serrano cor. Asistio St.)
- Deka Motorcycle Parts (Howard Tower Cond. 6th Ave., Susana St.)
- Misha.net Computer Center (Samson road)
- Nextwave Computers (L.O.L. Bldg., Asuncion St.)
- Cynthias Little Market Corp. (M.H. Del Pilar St., Grace Park)
- Blockbuster World (8th Ave., West Cor. Rizal Ave., Ext.)
- Precious Touch of beauty (11th Ave.)
- Mona del Printing & Trading (Edsa cor. Gen. Tinio St.)
- Letty's Store (P. Burgos St.)
10th Avenue
- Jasanette (West)
- Jeranet Cyber Café (218?)
- Infobyte Café (206)
- OJC Video (240 East, Grace Park)
- Computer Rental & Games (P. Burgos St.)
- Cybergold Computer Center (cor. Rizon St.)
- Our Lady of Grace Documentation (P. Burgos St.)
- JDL Feedshop Poultry Supplies (Geronimo Apt., West)
A. Mabini St.
- Arbiels Pharmacy
- Polority Gen. Mdse. Co.
- Cecilia Panlaqui Beauty Salon
- Imaginotion Computer Services
- PC Mansion Computer Network (Sangandaan)
- Techworld House of Electronics (Sangandaan)
- AKPJ Grocery & Gen. Mdse. (Sangandaan)

MALABON
- Space Grabber (5 Gen. Luna St. San Agustin)
- Dermcall Pharmacy (45 Gen. Luna St. San Agustin)
- LB City Wash (44 Gen Luna st. San Agustin)
- Vey Sari-sari Store (M.H. Del Pilar St, Tugatog)
- B-Plugged Computer Rental (M.H. Del Pilar St., Tugatog)
- Hardsoft Computer Center (Ibarra St., Acacia)
- BLS Pharmacy & Gen. Mdse. (Francis Mkt. Tinajeros)
- Franco Drugs (Gen. Luna St.)
- Wilson Computer Sales (Rosas Arcade 2F Concepcion St.)
- Felix Playcenter (Gen. Luna St.)

LAS-PIÑAS
- Hurricane MicroSystem (78 2nd Level SM Southmall)
- Dallas Bakery (Hernz compound infront of Southmall)
- Clements Enterprise (329 PD cera Ave. Pulanglupa)
- Semi-Point (431 Talon Uno, Real St.

MAILSTATION

Bonifacio and Rizal on labor

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

THE BURNING political, economic and social issues today would have provided an exciting backdrop for an enlightened debate between Bonifacio's revolutionary passions on one hand, and Rizal's reformist, analytical and slow-moving reactions, on the other hand.

Labor issues would have presented interesting points of convergence and divergence of views between the Great Plebeian from Tondo, founder and Supremo of the Katipunan, and the illustrado physician from Calamba, writer of Noli and Fili, a great traveler, artist and lover. Bonifacio's thrust was speedy action without much thought. Rizal's was too much thinking with hardly any action. Which of them could have better responded to our labor-management challenges today?

On labor migration

Bonifacio would have condemned the government's policy of promoting the endless outflow of Filipino brawn and brains. He would have denounced the Labor Code and the Migrant Workers Act for stressing overseas employment in the mighty name of the dollar, because it shatters our families, breaks our marriages and destroys the quality of life. Bonifacio would have preferred our Filipino talents to stay here to develop the nation.

Rizal, being an intercontinental traveler, would have endorsed the DOLE OFW program to the Middle East, the encouragement of housemaids' deployment to Hong Kong and Singapore, the japayukis in Tokyo and the first OFW. He was the first global Filipino whose perspectives extended beyond our territories. Rizal would have been an excellent adviser to Dr. Pat Sto. Tomas.

On wages, labor standards

The urban poor from Tondo, Gat Andres would have pushed for better terms and conditions of employment via the parliaments of the streets and not through parliamentary struggles, for Bonifacio did not trust the illustrados and the intelligentsia, who dominate Congress. Bonifacio would have scolded Crispin Beltran and Satur Ocampo for pushing a legislated wage hike for such would never pass in a chamber that is controlled by bankers, industrial magnates, landlords, middlemen and corporate lawyers.

The gentleman from Laguna, Dr. Rizal, would have loved to appear on TV and debate the matter with Pareng Oca and Mareng Winnie for the forum would have provided him propaganda mileage. He would have liked to be a member of the wage and productivity board and sent by President Macapagal-Arroyo to Geneva to address the ILO General Assembly on the issue of wages and their impacts on globalization. Rizal would have made a fine diplomat to negotiate with Joma Sison.

On workers health, welfare

Bonifacio would have lambasted both Pascual and Arellano for allowing Erap to dip his hands into the SSS coffers and insisted that the two witnesses be themselves tried by the peoples' court for their crimes against the working class. Bonifacio would have denounced the GSIS for its arm-twisting tactics against Napocor, just to exact billions of pesos in insurance premium.

Rizal would have savored a televised dialogue with Winston Garcia and Cora de la Paz for he would have loved show biz. Bonifacio would have dismissed it as a sheer hypocrisy. Rizal would have abided by ECC's denials of several workers' claims for work-related deaths, injuries and diseases. Bonifacio would have been fuming mad about them.

On unions and bargaining

Bonifacio would have pushed hard for the unification of genuine trade unions and would have exposed and denounced the yellow unions and their minions. He would have initiated verification talks even with the ragtag local unions of Leon Kilat in Cebu and Sultan Kudarat in Cotabato. He would have bridged the gap between Popoy Lagman's BMP and Crispin Beltran's KMU. He would have sought tactical alliances between the Marxist-Leninist fronts and the Maoist factions of the labor movement. Bonifacio's bargaining would have focused on political issues.

Rizal would have called for a summit in the grand style of Blas Ople and GMA and would have pressured the small guys like Tim Dejon of WATU and Bimboy Antoni of UOEF to join Kito Mendoza's and Boy Herrera's giant ALU-TUCP. Rizal would have revived Ople's failed one-union, one-industry scheme. Rizal's bargaining thrust would have been limited on economic issues.

On strikes, concerted actions

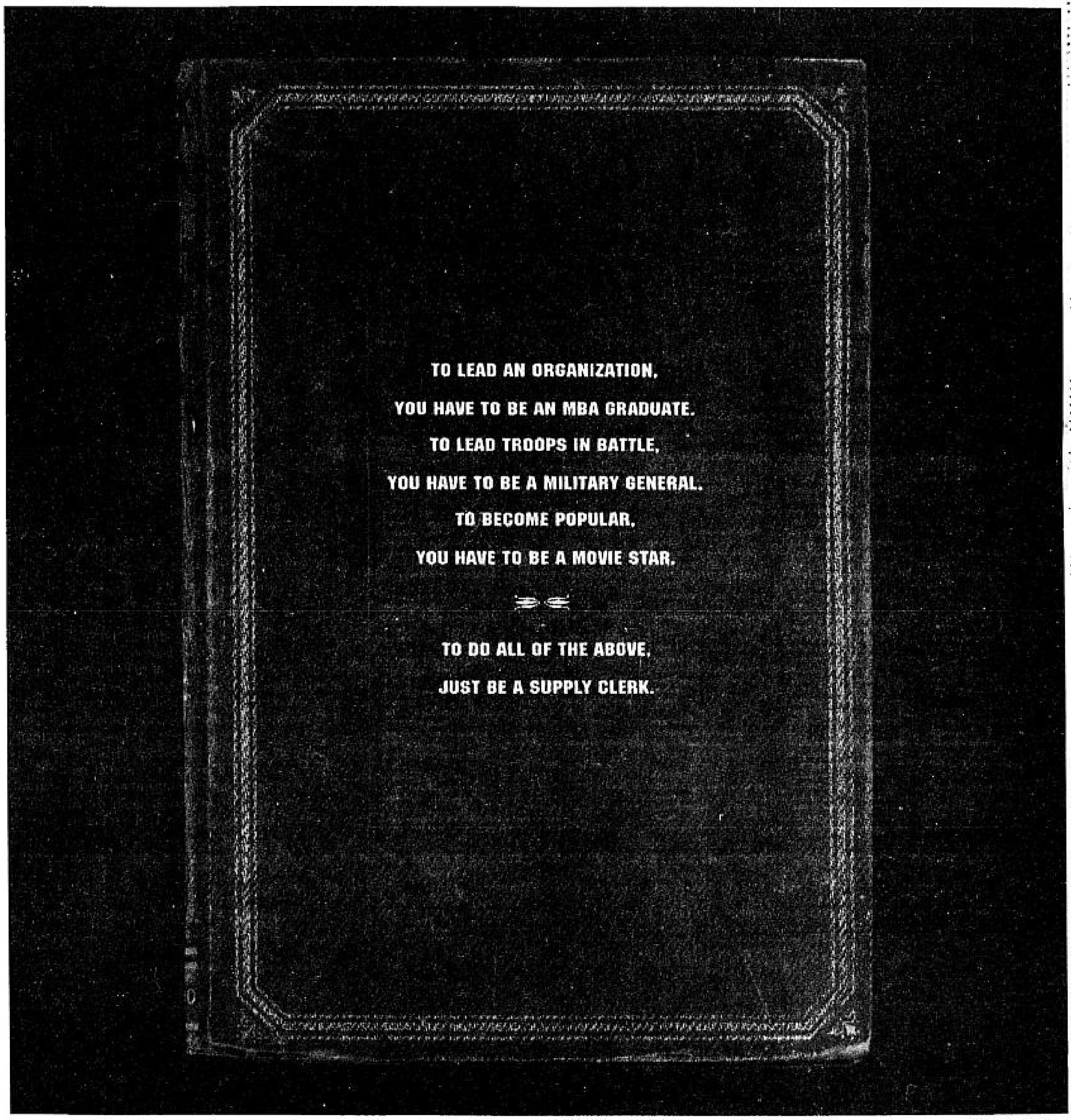
Bonifacio would have loved to march in Mendiola, shoulder to shoulder with Ted Casiño and Liza Masa. He would have welcomed the honor of a demo in front of Malacañang with Tañada, Nilo Tayag and the likes had they lived together in the same era to fight the same evils.

Rizal would have preferred the civil society and would have opted to be in Edsa rubbing elbows with JoeCon, FVR and Cory, and kissing the ring of Cardinal Sin. He would have jogged with the running priest from Katipunan up to the junction of Ortigas and Edsa. Rizal would have loved to speak before the Makati Business Club or AmCham elucidating on cerebral issues before bishops and businessmen, the Rotarians and the Jaycees, while the poor hungered for basic needs.

Contrasts and contradictions

Rizal in Luneta, fully dressed in three-piece suits for display to tour

BONIFACIO/ B8


TO LEAD AN ORGANIZATION,
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YOU HAVE TO BE A MOVIE STAR.
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Bass

Baritone

Tenor

Falsetto

MOUNTING LOSSES, SHRINKING MARKET

Singer's RP unit closes shop

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE DUTCH firm whose name has become synonymous to sewing machines to most Filipinos has shut down its Taytay, Rizal, plant due to mounting losses and a shrinking market.

Singer Industries Philippines Inc. has applied with the Board of Investments for the cancellation of its registration following the closure of its manufacturing operations last Oct. 30. The company was registered in July 1984.

The company cited recurring losses from its operations, and the depressed market demand has further aggravated its financial condition and continued viability. It told the BOI that it has given benefits and separation pays to its 69 employees.

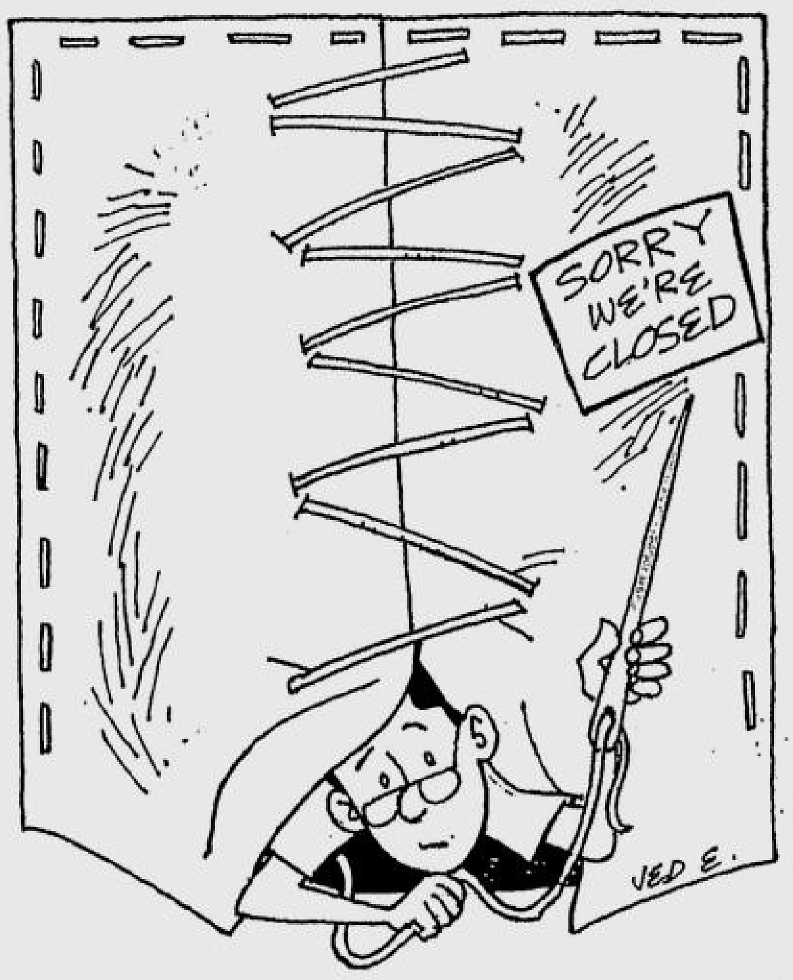
Although sales of Singer rose 10 percent to P63.409 million in 2000 from P57.534 million in 1999, its turnover is just a fraction of what it used to earn in 1995 (P147.401 million), 1996 (P125.44 million) and 1997 (P131.302 million).

Since 1998, Singer's return on sales registered a negative 1.04 percent to 8.133 percent from a positive 2.11 percent to 3.86 percent from 1995 to 1997.

Singer, one of the country's top 1,000 corporations, built a niche in the Philippines as a reputable maker of sewing machines through an aggressive marketing campaign nationwide, particularly in the provinces. It had expanded its product line to wood products (such as cabinets and stands).

But its business has been on the decline for the past several years as demand for its core products dipped. The regional financial turmoil further weighed down on its operations.

Singer's troubles, however, are not confined to the Philippines. Most of its subsidiaries, including its US unit, have either filed for bankruptcy or scaled down production. Singer is the world's leading manufacturer and distributor of sewing machines with 20 manufacturing facilities and 15,000-strong workforce.



PT&T creditors OK revisions in debt restructuring terms

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

CREDITORS of telecommunications firm Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Corp. have agreed to revise the restructuring terms for the company's debts worth almost P9 billion.

"Creditors are willing to take the risk because they want to see the company survive," PT&T president and chief executive Jose Luis Santiago said yesterday during the company's stockholders' meeting.

Under the revised terms, half of the company's total debt load as of June 30 would be converted to equity at P1 par value.

The balance is payable in 10 years, including a 5-year grace period on principal. Interest rates will be based on the 91-day Treasury bill rate plus a 2-percent spread and the benchmark London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor) plus a 2-percent spread.

This restructured amount will be secured by the Mortgage Trust Indenture that covers all of the company's assets.

The advisor assigned by the creditors will prepare a "cash distribution model" that will serve as the basis for principal and interest payments.

Based on the model, the interest payment will have a 2-year grace period, with the 5-year principal repayment to be paid on a "ramp-up basis."

PT&T also offered a "tail-end premium" on the 11th year, subject to excess cash availability. The accrued interest payable was also waived for business considerations.

The memorandum of agreement also recognizes the canceled share-swap deal between PT&T and its parent company Republic Telecommunications Holdings Inc.

Santiago said 66 percent of the company's creditors have already signed the MOA for the revision of the terms of restructuring.

The company posted a net loss of over P2.1 billion in fiscal year 2001 that ended June 30. The amount is almost double the 2000 figures of nearly P1.2 billion.

Its debt-to-equity ratio was pegged at 0.89 times, better than last fiscal year's 2.93 times. This was attributed to the conversion of half of the company's debts to equity.

The revisions are expected to help put the company in a better position to meet its debt obligations.

Explain violations, SEC tells All Asia

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is asking troubled investment house All Asia Capital & Trust Co. to explain why it violated rules on short-term commercial paper and other deficiencies.

Documents showed that the SEC prepared a letter asking All Asia to explain why it should not be penalized for borrowing some P41 million from Cagayan Electric Power and Light Co. Inc. without a registration statement.

The SEC earlier sent All Asia a letter asking the investment house to explain its failure to submit documents regarding its newly elected directors or officers.

The commission has yet to receive a reply from the company.

As of Nov. 13 this year, All Asia had a capital deficiency of P1.42 billion. It had gross receivables of P3.65 billion representing 74.6 percent of its total funds placed at P4.89 billion.

In July, All Asia filed a petition for rehabilitation with the Makati regional trial court. The court granted this request and appointed former SEC Associate Commissioner Danilo Concepcion as All Asia's receiver.

As of June 30 this year, All Asia had P7.1 billion in liabilities and P5 billion in assets.

Last year, the SEC issued a cease-and-desist order against All Asia after it found that the investment house violated some of the country's securities laws. Its license to operate as an investment house lapsed on July 31.

Among All Asia's shareholders are the International Finance Corp., Hong Kong-based fund manager Lombard, state-run Land Bank of the Philippines, the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Retirement, Separation and Benefits System, and the Tanco and Garcia families.

All Asia is still preparing a revised rehabilitation plan to submit to the Makati RTC.

All Asia president Roy Joseph Rafols said earlier his company would propose to keep P600 million in assets as working capital and use the rest to pay off secured creditors.

All Asia would then either restructure its remaining unpaid debts into long-term liabilities or convert them into redeemable preferred shares.
Elena R. Torrijos

DoE to present power reform law's draft rules

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

NATIONAL Power Corp.'s privatization plan and the final draft of the implementing rules of the power reform law are scheduled for presentation to the Joint Congressional Power Commission next week, sources said yesterday.

A source from the Department of Energy said the final drafts of the privatization plan and of the rules governing the power reform law have already been submitted to the commission but they have yet to be formally presented.

"They were supposed to be presented (yesterday) but it was postponed for next week in time for the celebration of the Energy Week," the source said.

He explained that the final draft of the implementing rules contained the results of several nationwide public consultations.

The sectors consulted included the academe, non-government organizations and stakeholders in the electricity industry.

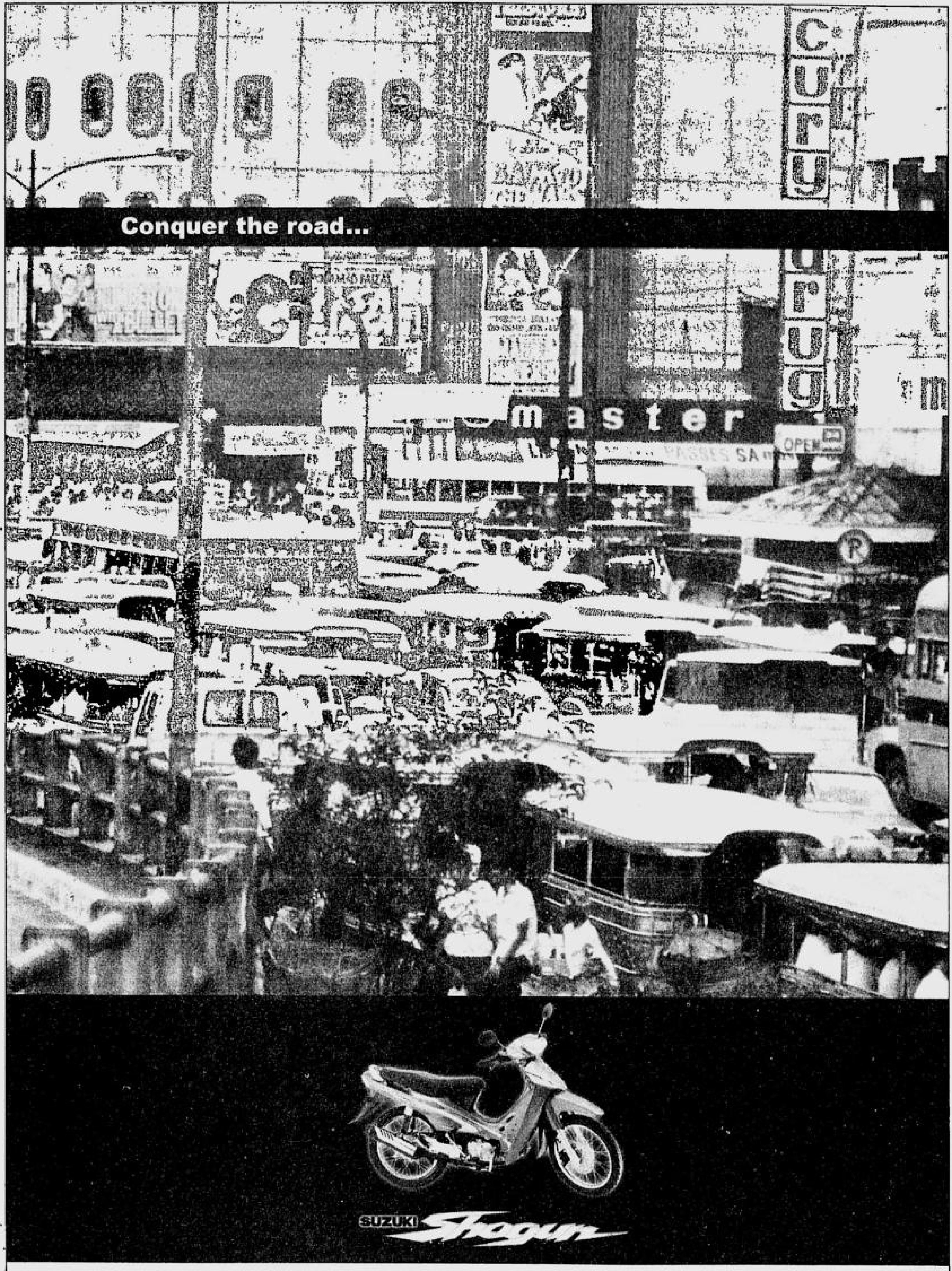
Napocor's privatization plan covers the proposed structures and the sequence and schedule of the sale of the firm's assets including the National Transmission Corp.

The plan also details the management of the financial and contractual obligations of Napocor.

Further, the plan tackles employee issues particularly a framework that will address the concerns of those who will be affected by the privatization.

However, the plan does not cover the valuation of Napocor's assets.

The source also said members of the commission have indicated that they would conduct separate public hearings for the Napocor privatization plan and the implementing rules.



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Gov't approves ₱6B in SGS claims

THE GOVERNMENT and Societe Generale de Surveillance have virtually completed their review of SGS' payment claims for its import clearance services from November 1998 to April 2000.

The two parties scoured line by line hundreds of thousands of import documents and agreed that of the 206 million Swiss francs (over P6.5 billion) worth of SGS' claim, some 192.4 million Swiss francs (around P6 billion) were valid and payable.

In a report submitted to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho last month, Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva said the Bureau of Customs and SGS officials cleared an additional 51.7 million Swiss francs of SGS' claims. Almost 4 million Swiss francs were disallowed while 10 million Swiss francs more still have to be reviewed and reconciled.

Last May, the BOC-SGS team issued an interim report, saying 140 million Swiss francs of SGS' claims were valid, and that the balance of 66 million Swiss francs had yet to be reviewed.

The October report virtually completes the process since what is left is minimal.

SGS had been trying to collect from the government since 1998 but continued nonetheless to render service in order to comply with its contract. It was supposed to have completed its services in early 2000 but was asked by the previous government to stay for three more months, up to April, for which it also was not paid.

VICTORY IN GLOBAL CITY

President Macapagal-Arroyo witnesses the lease agreement signing between Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) Chair Rogelio Singson and Victory Leadership Institute president Manny Carlos. Located at Bonifacio Global City's University Park, the 10,000-sq.m. VLI complex will consist of a modern 15-story building for classrooms, offices and other school facilities and a 3,000-seat world-class auditorium with state-of-the-art audiovisual and lighting facilities. VLI will integrate a primary and secondary Christian school. It will also offer adult education courses with a Christian-based curriculum in various fields. These non-formal executive courses are designed to promote the institute's commitment to train leaders in church, business, education, arts, media, sports and government.

BSP seen to slash key rates next week

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board yesterday vowed to cut next week Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' overnight rates by at least 25 basis points and the reserve requirements imposed on banks.

However, the Monetary Board, in a meeting yesterday, decided to keep the policy rates of the BSP at current levels until next week. It said it still has to wait for the actual inflation figures for November and validate a declining trend in the prices of basic goods before making any adjustments in the rates.

The BSP's overnight borrowing rate will remain at 8.25 percent and the lending rate at 10.5 percent until next week. The banks' reserve requirement was also kept at 20 percent.

"The aim is to bring down the rates but we decided to wait until next week for firmer numbers on inflation so we could be more aggressive in easing our monetary policies," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

At current levels, the central bank chief stressed that the policy rates were already at their lowest in almost a decade. The BSP has so far cut the overnight rates by 6.75 percentage points since last year.

Buenaventura said the board needed more solid basis that money supply was really declining before making adjustments in the reserve requirements on banks.

"There is no conflict between cutting the overnight rates and bringing down the liquidity reserve requirement. We can do both," said the central bank chief.

The monetary authorities, he said, were convinced that the November inflation would decline to about 4.5 percent to an average of 6.5 percent for the year.

"While the central bank likes to be supportive of growth by bringing down interest rates, we also have to keep price stability in mind," said Buenaventura.

"Our aim in bringing down interest rates is to stimulate the economy for next year. Even if our GDP grows by 3 percent this year, this growth is still respectable in today's standards given the current environment," said Buenaventura.

The Philippine economy as measured by gross domestic product should grow by 3.7 percent in the fourth quarter to hit the lower-end of its full-year target of 3.3 percent.

"We need to grow by 3.7 percent in the fourth quarter to hit 3.3 percent for the whole year. This is doable based on the strength of the farm and local services sectors," said the BSP chief.

Bonifacio and Rizal on labor

(From page B6)

ists, while the street urchins roam homeless around. Bonifacio in front of the Post Office, ill-clad, unworthy of the foreigners who offer wreaths in Luneta. Rizal, guarded by PMA cadets, who ape the changing of the guards in Washington DC's Arlington.

Bonifacio, the true hero of the working class, orphan, wage earner from Tondo, and who have never traveled beyond Luzon. Rizal, the global Filipino who studied and toured Europe and gained the perspective of an international scholar. Rizal is Crisostomo Ibarra and Simon. Whose life then is more relevant to the struggles and pains of our times?

Today is Bonifacio Day. A month hence is Rizal Day, a month apart. Their principles and goals however, are world and world apart. Ponder on these and make your choice.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)

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Stocks at 2-month high

(From page B1)

"The other reason is that a lot of investors are positioning for a Christmas rally next month . . . traditionally in the month of December, the market rises," he said.

Ong added that there had been increased activity in some lower-liners as investors cashed in gains made in large-caps.

The main composite index closed up 7.90 points, or 0.71 percent, at 1,128.47 points. It was the highest close since Sept. 27 when the index ended at 1,141.59.

Reuters

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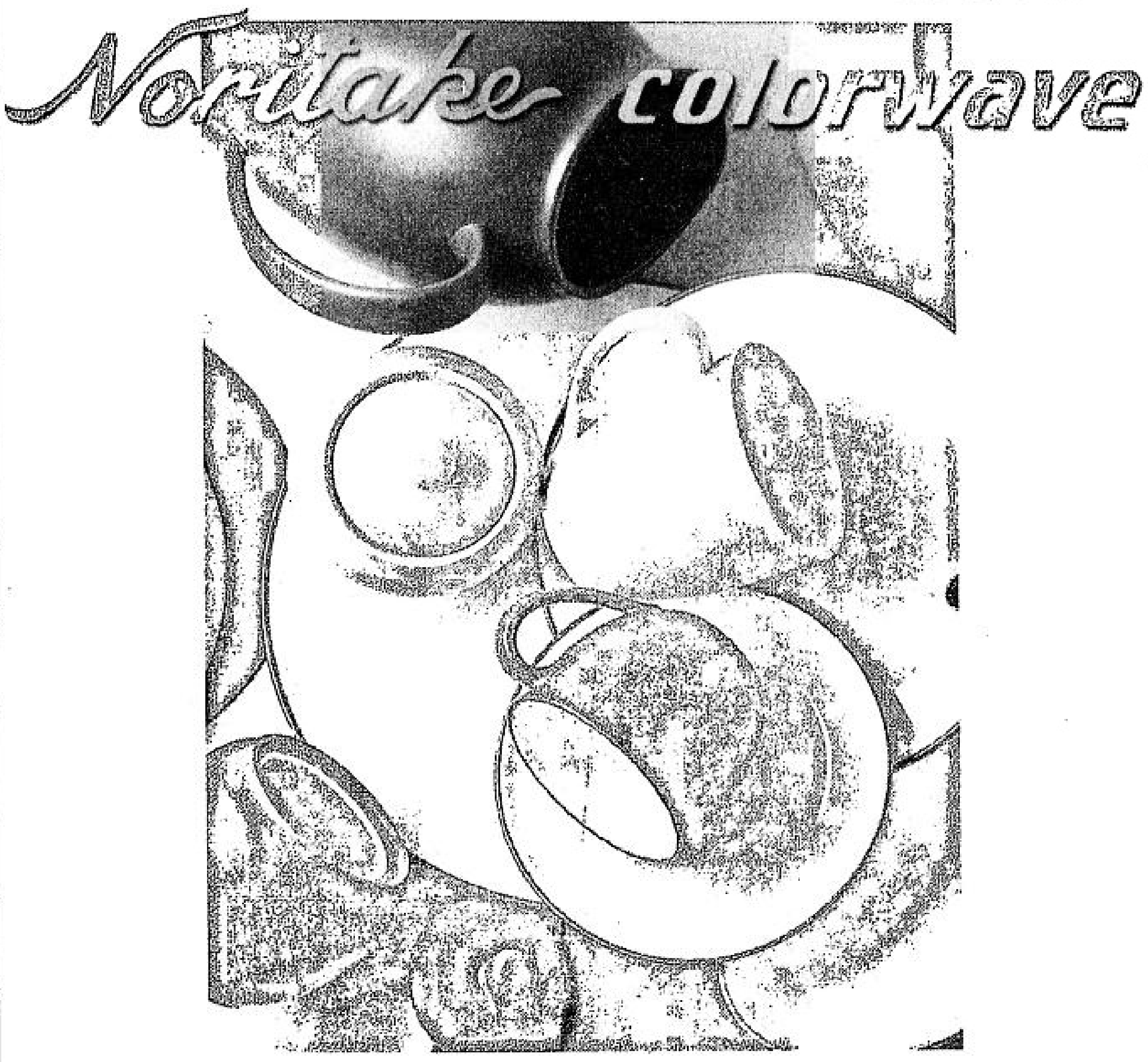

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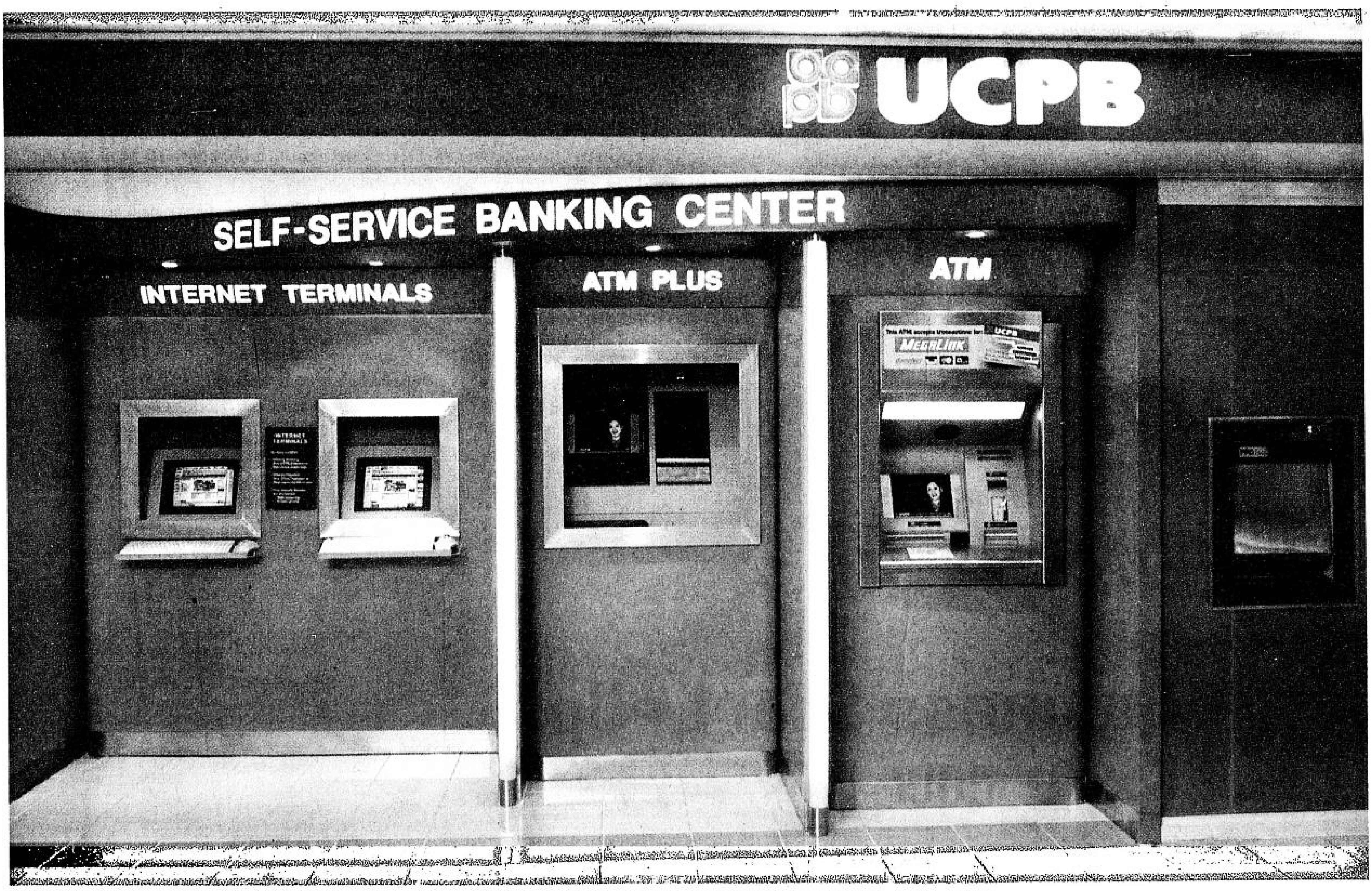

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Enron heads toward bankruptcy

HOUSTON—Enron Corp., once the world's largest energy trader, slid toward bankruptcy in one of the most spectacular downfalls Wall St. had ever seen after its would-be rescuer, Dynegy Inc., backed out of an $8.4-billion deal to take it over.

Enron's stock crashed to 61 cents, down from a high of around $90 over a year ago. The company, with a market value of $80 billion last fall, is now worth about $500 million.

Dynegy pulled out after Wall St. lowered Enron's credit rating to junk status, triggering an obligation to repay billions of dollars in debt that Enron probably could not cover.

Analysts said the seventh-largest US company in terms of revenue faced almost certain bankruptcy after a free-fall that began weeks ago with the disclosure that some of its executives had engaged in off-the-books business deals.

"It's the end of Enron, no question about it," said Gordon Howald, an analyst at Credit Lyonnais Securities in New York. "I don't know who else could step in."

Dazed workers trickled out of Enron's downtown Houston headquarters, across the street from the company's new $200-million, 40-story glass tower. They said they could not predict Enron's future—or their own.

Enron executives were "exploring other options to protect our core energy businesses," said Kenneth Lay, the company's chair and chief executive.

Analysts blamed the company's fall on a combination of arrogance and a penchant for secrecy. "They didn't explain things," said Morgan Stanley Dean Witter analyst Jim McAuliffe. "They are very cocky and self-assured."

Enron, which was formed in 1985 and had 20,000 employees, was once the world's top buyer and seller of natural gas and the largest electricity marketer in the United States. It also marketed coal, pulp, paper, plastics, metals and fiber-optic bandwidth.

In its heyday, Enron lavished contributions on politicians. The company and its employees had been the single biggest group of contributors to President George W. Bush's campaigns.

But political clout could not prevent its apparent downfall. Enron's money-losing broadband unit and power operations in India and Brazil were up for sale, and analysts said Enron had no other obvious rescuers.

"I'm not sure they have any other alternatives (to bankruptcy), unless banks are willing to siphon more money into a black hole," said Prudential Securities analyst Carol Coale. "Investors will not buy it."

The company was sent reeling by a series of explosive disclosures in the past month.

Enron revealed that partnerships run by its executives had allowed it to keep losses off its books and enabled the executives to profit from the arrangements. The partnerships are now under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

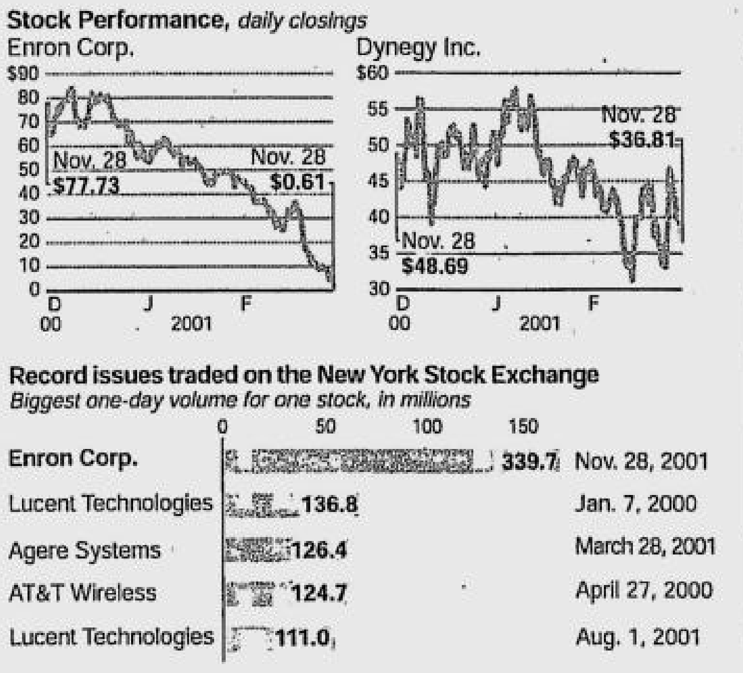
Enron ousted its top financial officer weeks ago and restated its earnings back to 1997, acknowledging it overstated profits by more than $580 million over the past four years.

Enron and Dynegy, both based in Houston, had spent the last several days trying to work out a revision to their Nov. 9 merger agreement, which valued Enron stock at more than $10 per share. Dynegy finally scuttled the deal, saying some aspects of the takeover agreement had not been met.

"Sometimes, a company's best deals are the very ones it did not do," Dynegy chair and chief executive Chuck Watson said. *AP*

Lets call the whole thing off

On Wednesday, Dynegy Inc. called off its planned $8.4 billion acquisition of troubled energy giant Enron Corp. Enron shares plunged on the New York Stock Exchange, breaking the one-day trading record for a NYSE-listed stock.



SOURCES: Quote.com;Yahoo.com; Commodity Systems Inc.; New York Stock Exchange AP

Dentsu set for glowing debut

TOKYO—Japan's Dentsu Inc., one of the world's largest ad agencies, is set for a flying market debut on Friday as its attractive valuation and strong name recognition lure investors, analysts say.

But the longer term upside for Dentsu, which commands a quarter of Japan's advertising market, could be limited by weak market conditions, the prolonged economic slowdown and concerns over further sales by its major shareholders, they added.

Based on its initial public offering price of 420,000 yen ($3,412) a share, Dentsu's market capitalization stands at 584.2 billion yen, making it one of Japan's largest IPOs this year.

"The price is attractive and its strong brand name is making the stock popular among retail investors," said Masayoshi Yano, an investment information manager at Tokai Tokyo Securities.

"But it will also face headwinds, with overall market sentiment dented by sharp slides in bank shares and the downgrades in Japan's debt ratings. It is quite difficult for any stock to go against the overall market trend."

Ratings agency Standard & Poor's on Wednesday lowered Japan's long-term debt ratings by one notch to AA, citing slow progress on reforms, and warned of a possible further cuts.

Dentsu is issuing 25,000 new shares ahead of its listing on the Tokyo Stock Exchange to raise 10.5 billion yen, part of which will be used for database upgrades and international investment.

An additional 110,000 existing shares will be sold to the public in a secondary offering.

Hiroyuki Terada, an analyst at ING Barings, said that at the IPO price of 420,000 yen, Dentsu would be trading at 8.2 times EV/Ebitda (enterprise value divided by earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization), considerably lower than that of its international competitors.

Terada set a target price of 610,000 yen for Dentsu, or 12 times EV/Ebitda, saying major international ad agencies' EV/Ebitda have mostly been in a range of 10 to 15 this year.

"This means Dentsu shares have 45 percent upside potential," Terada said, referring to the difference between the IPO price and his target price. *Reuters*

Merrill seen withdrawing stock services

TOKYO—US financial titan Merrill Lynch is considering withdrawing its stockbroking services for individual investors in Japan due to flagging sales and a slump in the stock market, a report said Thursday.

Merrill Lynch is finalizing details on its exit from the individual services market but will continue its brokerage services for institutional and corporate investors, the Asahi Shimbun newspaper said.

"Apart from a slump in the stock market, resistance to US-style marketing helped multiply its losses," the daily said. *AFP*

HIGH FUEL COSTS

Thai Airways suffers 59% dive in profits

BANGKOK—Thai Airways International has blamed the high costs of fuel and foreign exchange losses for a 59-percent slump in its earnings for the year to September.

In a statement released after the Stock Exchange of Thailand closed Wednesday, the flag carrier said its net profit plunged to 1.92 billion baht ($43.8 million).

Revenue for the year came to 129.17 billion baht compared with 121.72 billion baht in the previous year.

A worldwide rise in oil prices had pushed fuel costs up by 5.63 billion baht, the airline said.

The weakening of the Thai currency also caused a loss of 3.9 billion baht, 612 million baht more than the foreign-exchange loss posted the previous year.

The past year has been particularly difficult for Thai Airways.

In March a Thai Airways Boeing 737 exploded on the tarmac at Bangkok airport just minutes before Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his son were due to board.

Since then, it has been battered by a range of problems, including a series of bomb threats, industrial action and poor quarterly profit results.

In the last month, it has seen fuel and insurance costs skyrocket as a direct result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Thai Airways chair Virabongsa Ramangkura was brought in by Thaksin—who had publicly chided the airline for its poor service—in October to reverse the company's ailing fortunes.

Earlier this month, Virabongsa warned that the company could face financial ruin unless it reduced some of its $2 billion in debt.

The airline, which is 93 percent owned by the state, has been gearing up to sell at least 13 percent of its shares in a public offering that would be a step toward whittling away the debt.

But the privatization plan has been delayed several times as the company hung on for a visible sign of improvement in market conditions.

The long awaited privatization plan is part of Thailand's commitment to the International Monetary Fund under a $17.2-billion rescue package approved in 1997. *AFP*

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November 30, 2001 Friday
1:00pm - 2:00pm Role of DTI Bureau of Business Dev't & Small & Medium Enterprise Development Council for SME's; *by : DTI - SMED Council*
2:00pm - 3:00pm Let's Go Eat Forum (Food & Restaurant Industry)
3:30pm - 4:30pm Let's Go Surf Forum (IT & Communications Industry)
5:00pm - 6:00pm Let's Go Manufacture Forum (Manufacturing & Trading) *by: Let's Go (Leading Entrepreneurs Towards Sensing Global Opportunities)*
6:00pm - 7:00pm How to raise Funds from little personal money *by: Chikka.com's Dennis Mendiola*
7:30pm - 9:00pm Opportunities To Succeed Seminar *by: Manila Jaycees*

December 1, 2001 Saturday
1:00pm - 2:00pm It's My Business: Choosing the Right Business
2:00pm - 3:30pm For Starters: Starting Your Business
* Registering your business& other gov't requirements
* How to prepare your biz plan
4:00pm - 5:30pm Show Me the Money: How to Finance Your Business
5:30pm - 7:00pm An Entrepreneur's Success Story *by: Entrepreneur Magazine*

December 2, 2001 Sunday
10:30am - 1:00pm "Let's Go AccessCAPITAL : An Online Tool to Biz Planning" *by: Marfred Pranada, AccessCAPITAL*
5:00pm - 6:00pm Is Franchising Right for You? Choosing the Right Franchise *by: AFFI or FranLinkAsia*
6:00pm - 7:00pm Trends and Opportunities in the IT Industry *by: Toby Monsod or Genetic Computer Institute*

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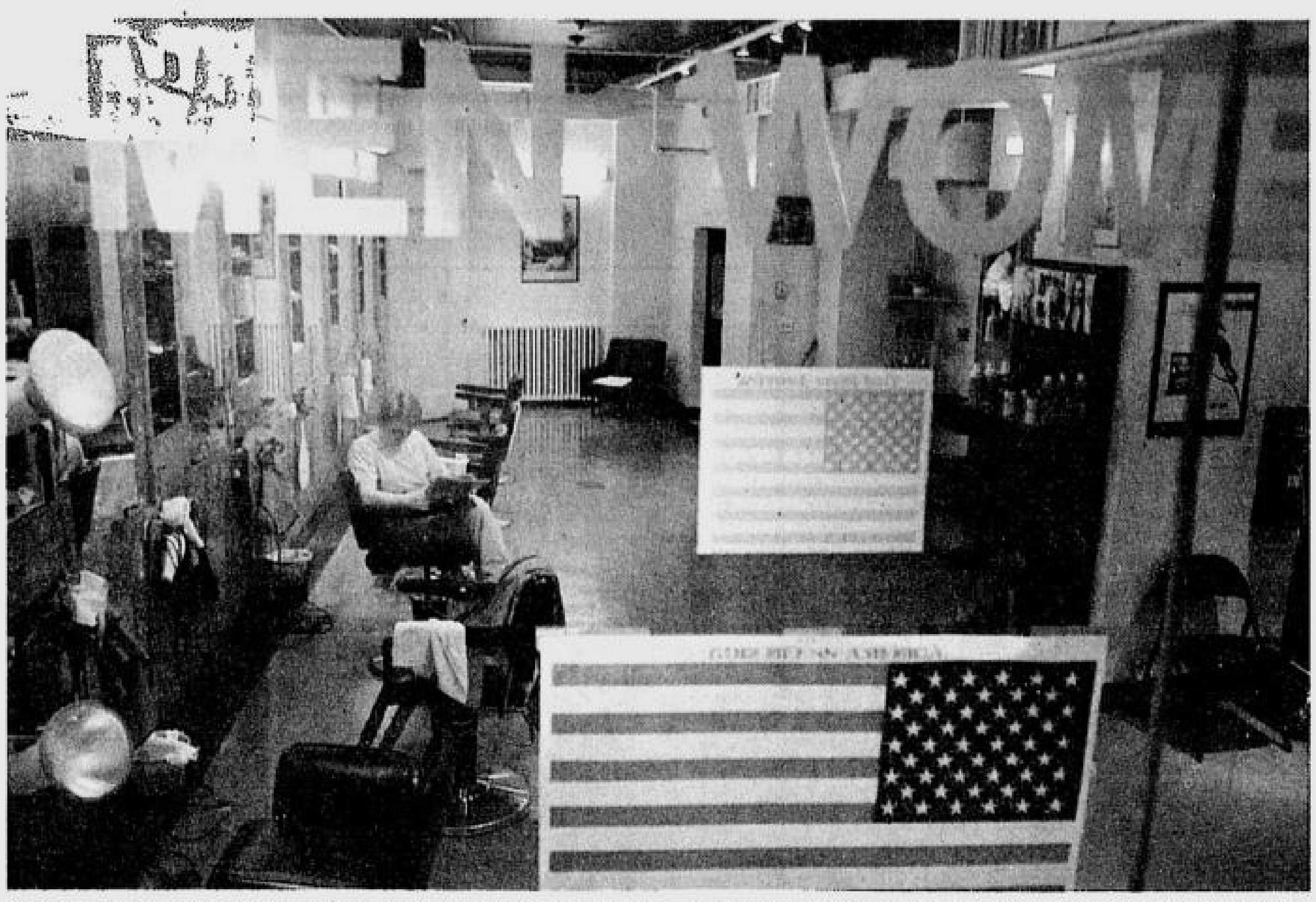
Recovery seen in Taiwan semicon industry



A HAIR stylist sits in an empty barber chair reading a newspaper at International Haircutters barbershop in lower Manhattan. Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, businesses, like this one, have struggled to get their clients and businesses back to pre-Sept 11 levels. AP

TAIPEI—Taiwan's crucial semiconductor industry, dragged down by a global recession in the information technology sector, appears to have hit the bottom and is showing signs of recovery, analysts say.

"It's very certain that the chip industry has bottomed out, judging from companies' sales figures and their own analysis," Rick Hsu, a semiconductor analyst with the Nomura Securities Co. in Taipei, said.

"Local IC firms have received more business orders on rising overseas demand for personal computer and mobile phone makers."

But Hsu said the semiconductor industry would need some months for consolidation before an upturn could be seen, saying he expected positive year-on-year growth to emerge in the second or third quarter of 2002.

Several leading semiconductor companies registered their lowest level of sales in the third quarter and declines were beginning to level off in November, he said.

The island's largest microchip maker, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., has already heralded the trend by raising its sales and earnings forecast for this year.

Improvement in the company's performance will persist into the first quarter of 2002, TSMC chair Morris Chang has said.

Another leading semiconductor maker, United Microelectronics Corp., may also see a turnaround beginning early next year, said Alan Tseng, an analyst with Capital Securities.

TSMC on Monday raised its 2001 parent pre-tax profit forecast by 54.8 percent to about NT$9.35 billion (US$271 million) from NT$6.04 billion projected in September.

It also marked up its 2001 sales revenue by 2.8 percent to NT$125.36 billion from NT$121.89 billion.

"Other than personal computers, orders for communication and consumer electronics products have also gone up," Chang said.

"I'm more optimistic than I was a month ago," he told institutional investors Tuesday while reviewing the company's third quarter performance.

The raise in profit reflected a steady expansion in shipments of high-margin products and a further sequential sales upturn in the fourth quarter of the year, Taisec Securities analyst Chao Chih-chiang said.

"The company must have been enjoying a greater inflow of orders for products that require more advanced technology."

In the nine months to September, Taiwan's semiconductor production dropped 2.3 percent to NT$398 billion.

The Industrial Technology Research Institute projected this year's semiconductor output would plunge 26.6 percent to NT$514.09 billion, worse than its earlier estimate of a 12-percent fall.

Worldwide semiconductor revenues are projected to fall 35 percent to $147 billion this year in the wake of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, according to Dataquest Inc., a unit of Gartner Inc.

Next year is seen as a recovery year, with worldwide semiconductor revenues growing an estimated 3 percent to $152 billion, a Dataquest survey said. *AFP*

Taking advantage of cheap labor, Toshiba to make phones in China

TOKYO—Japan's Toshiba Corp. said Thursday that it would make mobile phones in China from next year to take advantage of cheap labor costs and rapid growth in the Chinese market.

The move comes after rivals NEC Corp. and Matsushita Communication Industrial Co. Ltd. said Wednesday that they were considering a similar joint venture in the expanding Chinese market.

"The population in China is huge and the subscribers are growing rapidly, so we decided to set up there," said Toshiba spokesperson Kenichi Sugiyama.

Toshiba will take a 33-percent stake in a joint venture with local telecommunications firm Nanjing Postel Wong Zhi Telecom Co. Ltd. in Nanjing province. It aims to start making CDMA mobile phones for the Chinese market by April next year, Sugiyama said.

"We hope to sell tens of thousands of phones in 2002 and then 1 million units the following year."

"It will become a very important market for us," said the spokesperson.

US telecom equipment giant Motorola Inc., Swedish telecom group Ericsson AG and Finnish counterpart Nokia Oyj reportedly control a combined 70-percent share in the Chinese mobile market.

Toshiba will also start making 2.5 generation GPRS (general packet radio service) phones in Taiwan to sell in Europe from April next year but Sugiyama refused to give further details. *AFP*

Japan's Oct. auto exports climb 4.4%

TOKYO—Japan's exports of cars, trucks and buses climbed 4.4 percent in October from the same month a year ago to 377,157 vehicles, boosted by a sharp increase to the US market, an industry association said Thursday.

October saw a 21.5-percent jump in auto shipments from Japan to the United States, where interest-free loan auto sales campaigns by US and some Japanese makers lifted sales, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said.

Japan's overall auto exports last month totaled 377,157 vehicles, up from 361,354 exported in the same month of 2000. Auto exports marked a rebound from a 5-percent decline in September.

Last month, 161,240 vehicles were exported to the US market, accounting for about 43 percent of total exports.

An association official said the brisk sales in the US market were attributed to interest-free loan auto-sales campaigns initially launched by the "Big Three" American automakers starting in September and later joined by some Japanese manufacturers.

Reflecting the global economic slowdown, which has been exacerbated by the September terrorist attacks in the United States, auto exports to other overseas markets, except those to the Middle East, dropped, the association said.

Auto exports to the European Union fell 12.5 percent to 64,681 vehicles in October. Exports to the rest of Asia dropped 32.8 percent to 23,789, while those shipped to Latin America slipped 7.3 percent to 23,921.

Exports to the Middle East came to 42,359 vehicles, up 37.3 percent, and exports to Oceania totaled 28,277, the same figure sold in September. *AP*

Qantas workers on strike

CANBERRA, Australia—More than 600 maintenance workers at Australian flag carrier Qantas walked off the job Thursday over a proposed wage freeze.

The Australian Workers Union has been involved in two days of talks at the Australian Industrial Relations Commission—the country's industrial court—to reach an agreement for a pay rise for maintenance workers.

An AWU spokesperson said negotiations had broken down because the airline refused to budge on the 18-month freeze.

The action follows a similar strike last week by about 2,000 maintenance workers over the proposed wage freeze.

Speaking on customary condition of anonymity, the spokesperson said 500 maintenance workers at Melbourne's Tullamarine airport and 120 workers at Sydney's small Bankstown airport had walked off the job.

Workers at Sydney Airport were to meet Friday morning to decide whether to stop work.

The Melbourne protesters have decided to stay out until next Tuesday.

Qantas spokesperson Des Sullivan said the airline's schedules would not be disrupted, as members of other engineering unions were not taking part in the action.

He said those workers would continue to provide aircraft maintenance for Qantas.

In total, the airline had about 5,800 maintenance workers, he said. *AP*

NOTICE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF

WG&A
PHILIPPINES

TO : ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF WILLIAM, GOTHONG & ABOITIZ, INC.

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the stockholders of WILLIAM, GOTHONG & ABOITIZ, INC. will be held on **Thursday, 20 December 2001**, at 10:00 a.m. at the WG&A Penthouse, WG&A Building, North Reclamation Area, Sergio Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Certification of quorum
3. Amendment of Article SEVENTH of the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation
4. Declaration of stock dividends in the form of redeemable preferred shares
5. Other matters
6. Adjournment

The Board of Directors has fixed 30 October 2001 (at the close of business of such date) for the closure of the Stock and Transfer Book of the Corporation for purposes of determining the stockholders who are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the aforementioned special stockholders' meeting.

When registering your attendance at the aforementioned stockholders' meeting, please present some form of identification, such as a company I.D., passport, or driver's license.

Makati City, 29 November 2001.

EUSEBIO V. TAN
Corporate Secretary

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NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY IN THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX

PURSUANT TO R.A. 7160, SECTION 254 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, HEREUNDER ARE THE REAL PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENTS:

NAME OF TAX DELINQUENTS	TAX DECLARATION NUMBERS	DATE UPON W/O THE TAX BECAME DELINQUENT	AMOUNT
1.) FAVILA ET AL, AURORA & EUFRACIA			
Classification: Land Bgy. San Dionisio	E010-05008	1981-2001	41,835,880.40
2.) ASUNCION, BARBARA S.			
Classification: Land	E013-01344	1979-2001	30,430,668.16
Barangay Sto. Niño			
3.) DE LEON, RAFAEL		1979-2001	9,213,338.54
Classification: Land	E013-01660		
Barangay Sto. Niño			
4.) BAUTISTA, FELIX			7,251,701.14
Classification: Land Bgy. San Dionisio	E010-05362	1979-2001	
Land Bgy. Sto. Niño	E013-01396	1979-2001	
Land Bgy. Sto. Niño	E013-01639	1979-2001	
5.) EDWARD R. BACON PHILS. INC.			
Classification: Land Comm'l.	E006-08514	1979-2001	5,911,965.00
Barangay Marcelo Green			
6.) CHIOS, INC.		1979-2001	
Classification: Land Comm'L	E009-09505		5,065,900.00
Barangay San Antonio			
7.) JULI INC.			
Classification: Land	E013-01357	1979-2001	4,584,232.10
Barangay Sto. Niño			
8.) NERY MARTIN			4,323,751.76
Classification: Land Bgy. La Huerta	E005-01035	1979-2001	
Building Bgy. San Dionisio	E010-01798	1985-2001	
Land Bgy. Sun Valley	E014-00332	1995-2001	
Barangay San Dionisio			
9.) BAUTISTA ET, AL TEODORICO			
Classification: Land	E005-01133	1979-2001	4,101,477.90
Barangay La Huerta			
10.) BELO ET AL, FLORENCIO P.			
Classification: Land	E015-00259	1979-2001	3,738,655.66
Barangay Tambo			
11.) L.G. MATHIESON DEV. CORP.			3,199,219.70
Classification: Land Bgy. La Huerta	E005-01599	1979-2001	
Land Marcelo Green	E006-02882	1979-2001	
12.) DANDAN, MAGNO			
Classification: Land	E005-01092	1979-2001	3,015,562.10
Barangay La Huerta			
13.) CONCEPCION INDUSTRIES INC.		1968-2001	
Classification: Machineries	E001-05468		2,482,446.44
Barangay B.F. Homes			
14.) GUEVARRA, OCTAVIO			2,059,371.22
Classification: Land Bgy. Don Bosco	E003-02060	1979-2001	
Land Bgy. San Dionisio	E010-05518	1979-2001	
15.) GATCHALIAN, JUAN			
Classification: Land	E010-05497	1979-2001	1,906,172.30
Barangay San Dionisio			
16.) DE LEON, CATALINO			1,598,634.44
Classification: Land	E013-01230	1979-2001	
Land	E013-01659	1979-2001	
Barangay Sto. Niño			
17.) JIMENEZ, FRACTOUSA			
Classification: Land	E010-05529	1979-2001	1,503,839.42
Barangay San Dionisio			
18.) DE LEON ET AL, FELICULA			
Classification: Land	E008-12507	1979-2001	1,438,826.86
Barangay Moonwalk			
19.) LORENZANA, SOLOMON			1,342,893.16
Classification: Land	E010-01722	1998-2001	
Building	E010-01724	1999-2001	
Building	E010-01726	1998-2001	
Building	E010-01727	1998-2001	
Improvement Comm'l.	E010-01723		89,835.09
Improvement Residence	E010-01725		7,467.96
Barangay San Dionisio		SUB-TOTAL	1,440,196.21
20.) GARCIA, EUGENIO			1,369,070.68
Classification: Land Bgy. Don Bosco	E003-18848	2001	
Building	E003-02814	2001	
Land San Dionisio	E010-05485	1979-2001	
Building Bgy. Tambo	E015-01783	1979-2001	
21.) ADARLO, EVA S.			916,252.30
Classification: Land	E010-09219	1994-2001	
Building	E010-09220	1994-2001	
Building	E010-09221	1994-2001	
Barangay San Dionisio			
22.) ANCHOR POLYTEX MFG. CORP.			
Classification: Land	E014-02036	1997-2001	879,750.00
Barangay Sun Valley			
23.) BELLA REALTY ENTERPRISES			
Classification: Land	E011-10272	1979-2001	836,286.76
Barangay San Isidro			
24.) DOMINGA OLIVA		1973-2001	
Classification: Land Residential	E015-02043		468,533.92
Land Residential	E015-02044		324,109.04
Barangay Tambo		SUB-TOTAL	792,642.96
25.) GARCIA CONSTANCIO L.			767,768.94
Classification: Building	E010-01757	1985-2001	
Building	01760	1985-2001	
Land	06649	1985-2001	
Barangay San Dionisio			
26.) JOSE AGUEDA			
Classification: Land	E010-05531	1979-2001	654,722.88
Barangay San Dionisio			
27.) JIMENEZ LORENZO & FE			615,688.32
Classification: Land Bgy. San Antonio	E009-09436	1990-2001	
Building	E010-02415	1986-2001	
Barangay San Dionisio			
28.) KALAW, PURA V.			
Classification: Land	E004-01103	1993-2001	408,375.12
Barangay Don Galo			
29.) DY, WILLIAM			372,461.06
Classification: Land	E015-03403	1997-2001	
Building	03404	1997-2001	
Land	03405	1997-2001	
Building	03406	1997-2001	
Barangay Tambo			

AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE DISTRAINT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, PAYMENT OF THE TAX WITH SURCHARGES, INTERESTS AND PENALTIES MAY BE MADE. IN CASE OF FAILURE TO PAY THE BASIC REAL PROPERTY TAX OR ANY OTHER TAX LEVIED UNDER THE REAL PROPERTY TAXATION UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIODS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 250 ON PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES IN INSTALLMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, OR WHEN DUE, AS THE CASE MAY BE, SHALL SUBJECT THE TAXPAYER TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST AT THE RATE OF TWO (2%) PERCENT PER MONTH ON THE UNPAID AMOUNT OR A FRACTION THEREOF, UNTIL THE DELINQUENT TAX SHALL HAVE BEEN FULLY PAID: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN NO CASE SHALL THE TOTAL INTEREST ON THE UNPAID TAX OR PORTION THEREOF EXCEED THIRTY-SIX (36) MONTHS. FURTHER, AND UNLESS THE TAX, SURCHARGES AND PENALTIES ARE PAID BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE YEAR FOR WHICH THE TAX IS DUE EXCEPT WHEN THE NOTICE OF THE ASSESSMENT OR SPECIAL LEVY IS CONTESTED ADMINISTRATIVELY OR JUDICIALLY PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 3, TITLE II, BOOK II OF THE CODE, THE DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION, AND THE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY WILL BE VESTED IN THE PURCHASES, SUBJECT, HOWEVER, TO THE RIGHT OF THE DELINQUENT OWNER OF THE PROPERTY OR ANY PERSON HAVING LEGAL INTEREST THEREIN TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE OF SALE.

PERSONAL PROPERTY MAY BE DISTRAINED TO EFFECT PAYMENT, AND/OR LEVY UPON THE REAL PROPERTIES OF THE DELINQUENT TAXPAYER TO SATISFY THE DELINQUENCY.

(Sgd.) LIBERATO M. CARABEO
ICO-CITY TREASURER

(PDI – Nov. 23 & 30, 2001)

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LPL Greenhills 1BR Semifurn 16T • 915-5177

NR GHILLS 3BR P30-40T; V. VERDE P30-50T 7232391

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PARAGON PLAZA EDSA 2BR 33T FF • 915-5177

VARIOUS AREAS

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'98 Navigator 4x4 CChair 2001 Sport Trac 721-0317

HONDA

'99 SIR Orange 565T neg 4547392 ★ 09173327187

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•96 Grace P210T 330-3315•

•98H100 P265T 927-6597•

KIA

96 Besta 2.2 180T 3303315

98Besta 2.7 252T 9276597•

98Pregio 3.0 320T 9276597

Besta Van P250T (Neg) 671-3535 / 733-2507 / 0917-8472716

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97 MB100 CMC 385 NEG 5218122

•98 MB100D P368T 9276597•

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94 Lncr A1 Loaded P172T Neg Call 0917-8325705

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TOYOTA

96 RAV4 RED AT 485T 5245994

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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Bnew Van 8261045 8254058

BrdalMB/Vans9296250;4535288

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

Cars/Vans 4 Rent 8203894

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8955627

HONDA MB100 8908668

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

L300 T7411356

MB HIAce L3 Urvan 8279137

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Toll Regulatory Board
(Grantor)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION
(Grantee)

Notice is hereby given that the Toll Regulatory Board approved the toll rate increase of Philippine National Construction Corporation for the North Luzon Expressway from Balintawak to Sta. Ines and the South Luzon Expressway from Alabang to Calamba. The adjusted toll rate shall be published by the Grantee in a newspaper of general circulation at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

Per Board Resolution No. 2001-62, the following rates will be implemented on January 01, 2002.

A. NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY

CLASS 1 (Cars, Jeepneys, Pick-ups, Vans)

ENTRY/EXIT	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	GUI	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	2.00											
Valenzuela	3.00											
Lawang Bato	3.00	1.00										
Meycauayan	4.00	2.00										
St. Francis	4.00	2.00										
Marilao	5.00	3.00	2.00									
Bocaue	6.00	4.00	3.00	2.00								
Balagtas	8.00	6.00	5.00	3.00	2.00							
Guiguinto	9.00	7.00	5.00	4.00	3.00							
Tabang	10.00	8.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	1.00						
Sta. Rita	10.00	8.00	7.00	6.00	4.00							
Pulilan	12.00	10.00	9.00	8.00	6.00		3.00					
San Simon	16.00	14.00	13.00	12.00	10.00		7.00	4.00				
San Fernando	19.00	17.00	16.00	15.00	13.00		10.00	7.00	3.00			
Angeles	24.00	22.00	21.00	20.00	18.00		15.00	12.00	9.00	6.00		
Dau	25.00	23.00	21.00	20.00	19.00		15.00	13.00	9.00	6.00	1.00	
Sta. Ines	27.00	25.00	23.00	22.00	21.00		17.00	15.00	11.00	8.00	3.00	2.00

CLASS 2 (Light Trucks, Tourist/School & PUB, Class 1w/ Trailer, Class 1-7ft. & above ht.

ENTRY/EXIT	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	GUI	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	ANG	DAO
Mapulang Lupa	4.00											
Valenzuela	5.00											
Lawang Bato	6.00	2.00										
Meycauayan	8.00	4.00										
St. Francis	8.00	4.00										
Marilao	10.00	6.00	3.00									
Bocaue	12.00	8.00	5.00	3.00								
Balagtas	16.00	12.00	9.00	6.00	4.00							
Guiguinto	17.00	13.00	10.00	8.00	5.00							
Tabang	19.00	15.00	12.00	9.00	7.00	2.00						
Sta. Rita	20.00	16.00	13.00	11.00	8.00							
Pulilan	24.00	20.00	17.00	15.00	12.00		5.00					
San Simon	32.00	28.00	25.00	23.00	20.00		13.00	8.00				
San Fernando	38.00	34.00	31.00	29.00	26.00		19.00	14.00	6.00			
Angeles	48.00	44.00	41.00	39.00	36.00		29.00	24.00	17.00	11.00		
Dau	50.00	46.00	42.00	40.00	38.00		30.00	26.00	18.00	12.00	2.00	
Sta. Ines	53.00	49.00	46.00	44.00	41.00		34.00	29.00	22.00	16.00	6.00	4.00

CLASS 3 (Heavy & Multi-Axled Trucks/Trailers)

ENTRY/EXIT	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	GUI	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	6.00											
Valenzuela	7.00											
Lawang Bato	9.00	3.00										
Meycauayan	11.00	5.00										
St. Francis	12.00	6.00										
Marilao	15.00	8.00	4.00									
Bocaue	18.00	12.00	8.00	4.00								
Balagtas	23.00	17.00	13.00	9.00	5.00							
Guiguinto	25.00	19.00	15.00	11.00	8.00							
Tabang	28.00	22.00	17.00	14.00	10.00	3.00						
Sta. Rita	30.00	23.00	19.00	16.00	12.00							
Pulilan	36.00	30.00	26.00	22.00	18.00		7.00					
San Simon	48.00	42.00	37.00	34.00	30.00		19.00	12.00				
San Fernando	57.00	51.00	46.00	43.00	39.00		28.00	21.00	9.00			
Angeles	72.00	66.00	61.00	58.00	54.00		43.00	36.00	25.00	16.00		
Dau	74.00	68.00	63.00	60.00	56.00		45.00	38.00	27.00	18.00	3.00	
Sta. Ines	80.00	73.00	69.00	65.00	62.00		50.00	44.00	32.00	23.00	8.00	6.00

B. SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY

CLASS 1 (Cars, Jeepneys, Pick-ups, Vans)

ENTRY/EXIT	ALA	FIL	SUS HTS	SWOODS	CAR	MAM	STR	CAB
Alabang								
Filinvest	2.00							
Susana Heights	2.00	2.00						
Southwoods	4.00	4.00	2.00					
Carmona	5.00	5.00	3.00	1.00				
Mamplasan	6.00	6.00	4.00	2.00	1.00			
Sta. Rosa	7.00	7.00	5.00	3.00	2.00	1.00		
Cabuyao	10.00	9.00	8.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	
Silangan	10.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	1.00
Calamba	12.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	3.00

CLASS 2 (Light Trucks, Tourist/School & PUB, Class 1 w/ Trailer, Class 1-7 ft. & above ht.)

ENTRY/EXIT	ALA	FIL	SUS HTS	SWOODS	CAL	MAM	STR	CAB
Alabang								
Filinvest	4.00							
Susana Heights	4.00	3.00						
Southwoods	9.00	8.00	5.00					
Carmona	10.00	9.00	6.00	1.00				
Mamplasan	12.00	11.00	8.00	4.00	2.00			
Sta. Rosa	14.00	13.00	10.00	6.00	4.00	2.00		
Cabuyao	19.00	18.00	15.00	10.00	9.00	7.00	5.00	
Silangan	20.00	19.00	16.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	1.00
Calamba	25.00	24.00	21.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	10.00	5.00

CLASS 3 (Heavy & Multi-Axled Trucks/Trailers)

ENTRY/EXIT	ALA	FIL	SUS HTS	SWOODS	CAR	MAM	STR	CAB
Alabang								
Filinvest	6.00							
Susana Heights	6.00	5.00						
Southwoods	13.00	12.00	7.00					
Carmona	15.00	14.00	9.00	2.00				
Mamplasan	19.00	17.00	13.00	5.00	3.00			
Sta. Rosa	22.00	20.00	16.00	8.00	6.00	3.00		
Cabuyao	29.00	27.00	23.00	15.00	13.00	10.00	7.00	
Silangan	31.00	29.00	24.00	17.00	15.00	12.00	9.00	2.00
Calamba	37.00	35.00	31.00	24.00	22.00	18.00	15.00	8.00

Note: Any interested expressway user shall have the right to file within 0 period of ninety (90) days after the date of publication of this order a petition with the TRB (2nd Floor, IBP Building, Doña Juana Vargas Avenue, Pasig City for a review of the toll rates.

SO ORDERED, November 30, 2001.

By Authority of the Board.

(Sgd.) JAIME S. DUMLAO, JR.
Executive Director

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

WANTED TO BUY

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

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LEGAL NOTICE

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE RIZALINA T. CRUZ PER DOC. NO. 343; PAGE NO. 70; BK. NO. XLV; SERIES OF 2001 NOTARIZED BY WILFREDO B. AMISCARAY PDI-Nov. 16, 23 & 30, 2001

Notice is given that the estate of the late **JESUS E. MACARAEG** has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc.No.156 Page 32 Book No. XVII Series 2001 of Notary Public Edwin O. Mergas of Tarlac City(PDI-Nov.23,30 & Dec.7,2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **JOSEFINA Z. SANTOS** has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs on Aug. 17, 2001 under Doc# 156, Page# 33, Book# 1, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Andres C. Ocampo of Makati City.(PDI-11/23, 30 & 12/7, 2001)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **NARCISO C. VALLE** was extrajudicially settled among His heirs per Doc.#795, Page #159, Book #XIV Series of 2001 of notary public Atty. Amado E. Villafuerte of Quezon City (PDI-Nov.23, 30 & Dec.7,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Certificates of Stock Nos. 21 and 47 issued by Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. in the name of **LINO ED LIM** representing a total of 312 shares have been lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Nov. 16, 23 & 30, 2001)

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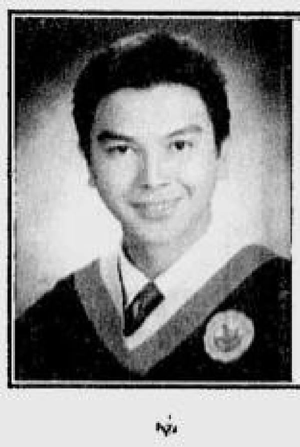

Congratulations to

PAUL JASON MALLARI ESTEBAN

of South A-A, Quezon City who recently passed the Board of Licensure Examinations for Civil Engineering given last November, 2001. Peejay graduated from Mapua Institute of Technology last March and excels on all sports and academic activities since his Elementary and High School Days at Don Bosco Institute, Tarlac City.

Parents NARCISO and TEY MALLARI ESTEBAN, grandparents Ricardo & Adriana, siblings Cheryl Kaye & Lester are wishing all the best for Peejay. Relatives and friends will see him at the oathtaking on December 14, 2001 at the Manila Midtown Hotel at 1:00 p.m.

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MARISA GONZÁLEZ-KLAR

July 3, 1936 - December 1, 1991

In loving memory of our dear beloved mother's tenth year death anniversary, the following Masses shall be offered on December 1, 2001:

Santuario de San Antonio Forbes Park	6:00 AM 12:15 NN 6:00 PM
St. John Bosco Church	6:30 AM 7:30 AM 6:00 PM
Christ the King GreenMeadows	6:00 PM
St. Francis Church Mandaluyong	7:00 AM
St. Jerome and Sta. Susana Church Alabang	7:00 AM
St. James the Great Alabang	6:20 AM 5:30 PM

Her children **Carli, Carla, Raquel,** and **Stefani**; their spouses and all her grandchildren, offer our sincerest thanks to all who continue to pray for her eternal rest with the Lord.

Our Dear MAMA

DULCE SALVACION AUSTRIA

of Lucena City

Has peacefully joined our Creator on the 26th day of November of our Lord's year 2001.

She was 64.

Together with our loving **PAPA PEPE**; we, her children **AILEEN** and **SAMMY, WINNIE** and **ABET, MINA** and **JIMMY, RIZZA** and **JULIUS, YHAYHA**; her grandchildren **LILY MAE, JEI-JEI, TIN, POGS, IZZA, GORDEE** and **MOEBEE**; her brothers and sisters **BELEN, MINDA, CHING** and **EDUARDO**; and other relatives and friends request you to pray for her on her eternal journey with our Lord.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation schedule will be announced later.

ROGELIO ESPARES MARISTELA SR.

of Mira Mesa, San Diego, California
(September 16, 1912 - November 27, 2001)

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 27, 2001 at the age of 89.

His wife **Florencia Tan Maristela**; children, grandchildren, in-laws, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Mass will be held at Good Shepherd Church, San Diego, California at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, December 1, 2001 followed by burial at 2:00 p.m. at St. John the Cross Cemetery.

Mass will also be offered at Our Lady of All Nations Parish, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, December 1, 2001.

Our Dearly Beloved

REYNALDO FERNANDO SEMPIO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on November 29, 2001 at the age of 64.

His family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal peace and joy.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, December 2, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Holy Trinity Chapel.

LEONARDO V. VIRAY

Who died in the Grace of our Lord on July 4, 2001.

The family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember "DENG" in their prayers.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."

2 Cor. 4:14

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that the **PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE, INC. (PSE)** has approved the application of **MAGNUM INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES, INC. (MISI)** for the voluntary suspension of its operations effective on 30 November 2001.

Accordingly, MISI is now in process of transferring its existing client accounts, as may be appropriate, to its designated successor-broker **ASIASEC EQUITIES, INC.**

Effective on **1 December 2001**, please course all your concerns and queries to:

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Office Manager
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Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines
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Fax # 845-3418

(PDI–Nov. 30, 2001)

INQUIRER

TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Reds

Q. Why is the color red associated with Communists and political radicals?

A. Russian Communists adopted the red flag as a symbol of international socialism following their successful Revolution of 1917, and since then the color and the term Reds (usually capitalized) has nearly always signified Communists or Communist sympathizers across the world. However, the history of the color red as a symbol of defiance and revolution goes way back to the days of the Roman Empire when it was used as a call to arms. It was also used during the French revolution by the extremist Red Republicans, who wore red caps.

Ooops! Blood isn't always red as most people think. It is red only in the arteries when it leaves the heart laden with oxygen. But once the oxygen has been released throughout the body, blood absorbs carbon dioxide and other wastes, and takes on a purplish blue color in the vei[illegible] on its return journey to the heart. If you cut yourself, however, t[illegible] blood in the veins instantly turns red due to the action of oxygen in the air.

Past Forward. This day in 1863: Andres Bonifacio, founder of the Katipunan, was born in Tondo, Manila. He was named in honor of San Andres (St. Andrew the Apostle), patron saint of Manila, whose feast day is November 30.

WORD WATCH

Supremo : ultimately, from the Latin *supremus*, the superlative form of *superus*, 'that is above.'

PDI – November 30, 2001

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

Nissan hosts public test drive at AutoStop Asia 2001

NISSAN Motor Philippines Inc. (NMPI) gears up for a public test drive of its cars this weekend, Dec. 1 and 2, 2001 at the World Trade Center grounds.

The event coincides with a display of Nissan cars at the AutoStop Asia 2001, an international automotive, after market parts and accessories exhibition. The show features various models of local and foreign car brands, as well as manufacturing and service tools and equipment and supplies.

"We are offering the test drives to demonstrate the excellent characteristics of our cars, such as the superior riding comfort that our models offer, among others," said Tonette Lee, Nissan's product and marketing head. "We have prepared several of our models for the test drive such as the Nissan Cefiro VIP Brougham, the Nissan Sentra Exalta Grandeur, the Nissan Verita and some others."

The test drive is free and will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 1 and 2, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Powermax wins BSIA Award

POWERMAX, Visonic's latest home control and security system, has been singled out as the winner in the "Instrusion" category at the recent Security Industry Awards, held in conjunction with the IFSEC show in Birmingham, England.

Sponsored by the British Security Industry Association (BSIA), these prestigious awards serve to highlight new products developed since Feb. 2000 that meets the following requirements: to have a unique concept, design and performance; to use technology that is new to the security industry; and to satisfy a previously unmet customer need.

"We are honored that the BSIA has selected PowerMax for its outstanding technologies, advanced features and user-friendly operation," says Amnon Presler, Visonic's CEO. "We appreciate the recognition for our engineering achievements as we endeavor to integrate security and home automation for a better living environment.

Locally distributed by Sequtech Corp., PowerMax is a wireless system that is programmed to respond to motion, smoke and fire alarms and can even detect water and gas leaks. Its built-in intelligence enables it to be used as a management center for an automated home, controlling, heating and cooling systems, lights and appliances. It also caters to special needs of children, the elderly, handicapped and even pets. For a free demo of the PowerMAx, call Sequtech Corp. at 845-3444.

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Vietnam steps up WTO membership talks

HANOI, Vietnam—Communist Vietnam prepared to launch intensive talks on membership of the World Trade Organization on Thursday, buoyed by the final ratification of an historic trade deal with the United States the previous day.

WTO director general Mike Moore has held evening talks with Trade Minister Vu Khoan.

"It's not a coincidence that Mr. Moore is visiting Vietnam at this time," Khoan told reporters ahead of the meeting.

"It's a very important visit. We expect to get a breakthrough."

Khoan said Vietnam's four rounds of talks with the WTO so far had been limited to questions of transparency.

"Now, we're going to begin a new round of talks on the core issues of Vietnam's admission to the WTO," he said.

Khoan has so far declined to give a target date for Vietnam's admission to the world trading club.

But the communist authorities have come under mounting pressure to press ahead before the WTO gets bogged down in talks on the new world trade round launched in the Gulf state of Qatar earlier this month.

Vietnam should aim to follow its communist neighbor, China, into the WTO within two to four years, European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said earlier this year.

World Bank officials agreed that Vietnam should press ahead with accession talks as quickly as possible now that the trade agreement with the United States was in the bag.

"It is the surest way of getting greater access to markets outside," the bank's chief economist for Vietnam, Kazi Matin, told reporters.

"If you don't have WTO membership, even full access to the Chinese market is going to be difficult.

"It's also good for the internal reform process and Vietnam's competitive efficiency."

Matin said a four-year timeframe for Vietnam's accession looked "doable," but cautioned that it was "not a process that is wholly in Vietnam's control."

A landmark trade deal with the United States, which was finally approved by Vietnam's communist-dominated parliament Wednesday after six years of tortuous negotiations, is based on WTO rules.

US officials say it provides an excellent basis for Vietnam to launch the necessary talks with other key trading partners for WTO membership.

AFP

A VIETNAMESE bread vendor walks by a giant billboard advertising 7-UP soft drinks in Hanoi, Vietnam. On Tuesday, Vietnam's National Assembly approved a historic bilateral trade agreement with the United States, marking the final step in normalization between the former wartime enemies.

AP

US online buying suffers–study

SAN FRANCISCO—Internet usage is becoming a mainstream activity for US citizens from all walks of life, a new university study revealed Thursday.

However, the same survey found that online buying had not made any major strides among US Internet surfers.

The annual study is conducted by the University of California, Los Angeles.

The survey uses a sampling of 2,006 Internet users and non-users, and compares trends among Internet users who are new, meaning they have been online for less than a year, to those who have been online for more than five years.

According to the report, some 72.3 percent of the US population is online, a jump from 66.9 percent in 2000. These users, on average, were online 9.8 hours per week, a slight increase from the 9.4-hour average from a year ago.

User satisfaction rate held steady this year, with an average ranking of 4 on a 1-to-5 scale.

The most popular activities online were communications—e-mail and instant messaging—and finding information, through Web browsing and reading news.

Online commerce saw a downturn, with 48.9 percent of users in 2001 buying through Internet sites. Last year, 50.7 percent of users bought over the Internet. The number of users who window shop stores and later buy online was also declining.

The report noted that 44 percent of those who are not yet online plan on logging onto the Internet in 2002.

"Despite the dot-com meltdown, we found that the Internet is more vigorous than ever," said UCLA researcher Jeff Cole in a statement accompanying the report.

"A large majority of Americans go online, Internet use continues to increase, and a growing number of non-users expect to go online in the next year."

The survey also found:

- Internet users with high-speed connections spend 3.2 hours online per week.
- Online users watched less television than non-users.
- More than 82 percent of online users said there was too much sexual content on the Internet and in other media.
- Some 36 percent of online users said that only half of what they saw on the Internet was reliable.
- Almost all users have a "deep concern" over credit card data being passed on the Internet.
- A quarter of children interviewed said they watched less television after becoming Internet users.
- Online time cuts into family time in the home.

And in a finding that probably comes as no surprise to employers, workplace users with Internet access said "spending time on the Internet doing things unrelated to their jobs" had affected their productivity.

AFP

IMF's nation bankruptcy proposal expected to take years to put into place

WASHINGTON—Private economists have expressed support for a proposal that International Monetary Fund officials are advancing to change the way debt crises are handled.

They also said it probably would take years to put into practice the approach outlined in a speech this week by Anne Krueger, the No. 2 official at the international lending agency.

The plan would enable countries to get a type of "bankruptcy protection" from their creditors if their debts become unsustainable. The idea is similar to the Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection available to private companies in the United States that shields them from the threat of creditors' lawsuits while company finances are reorganized.

Krueger said Wednesday that the proposal, which will go before the IMF's executive board next month, would fill a "gaping hole" in a system that fails to offer such protection to countries in financial difficulty.

"We lack incentives to help countries with unsustainable debts resolve them promptly and in an orderly way," she said. "At present, the only available mechanism requires the international community to bail out the private creditors."

For years, many private economists have urged such an approach as an alternative to the multibillion-dollar bailouts the IMF was forced to provide during the Asian currency crisis.

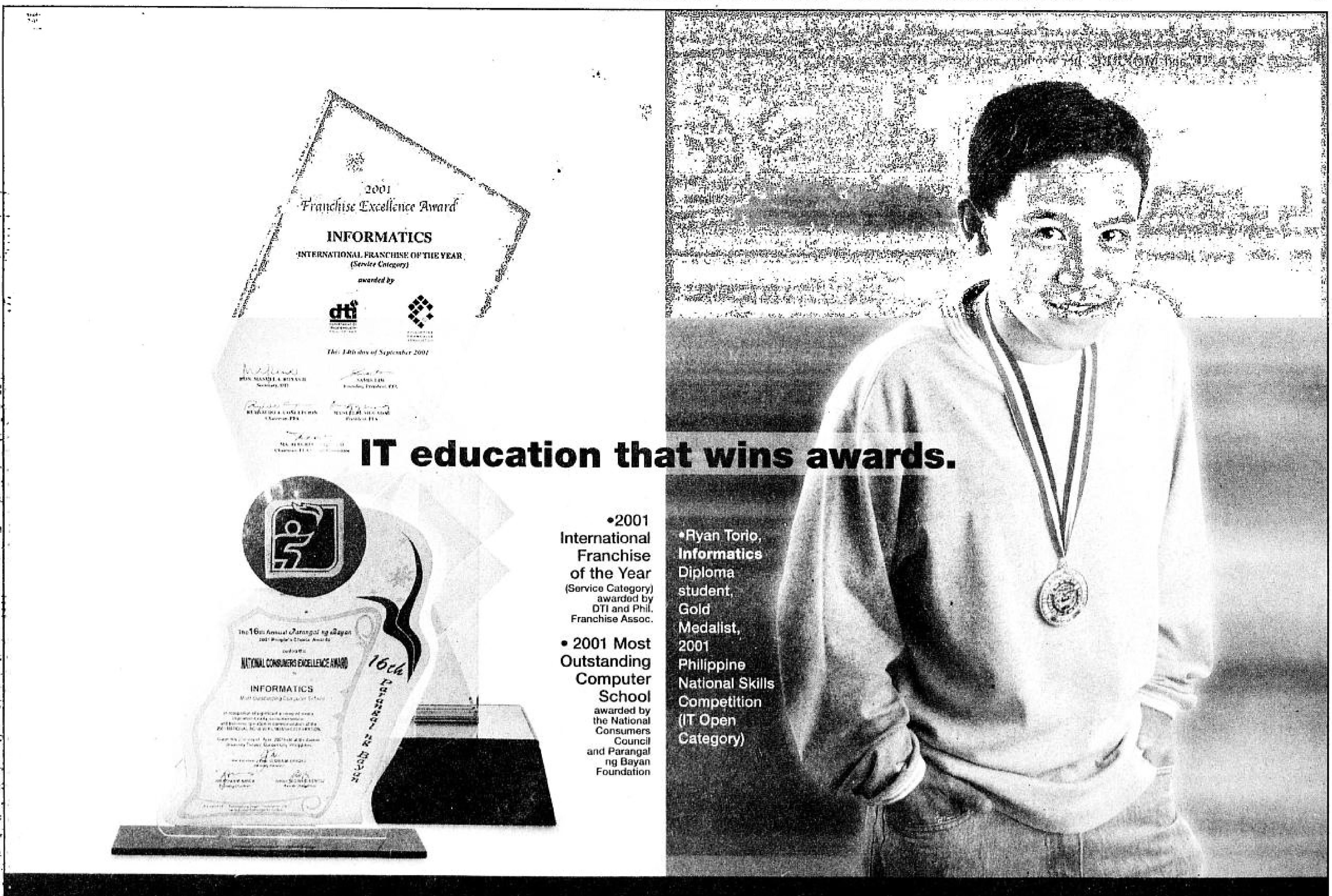
"This is an important step forward," said Morris Goldstein, a former top IMF official who is now a senior fellow at the Institute for International Economics, a Washington think tank. "The big-money approach to financial crises has outlived its day."

Krueger's proposal would adopt an approach long advocated by Harvard economist Jeffrey Sachs, who has urged the creation of an international bankruptcy mechanism for countries.

The IMF's current approach of providing bailout packages for countries in financial trouble has received much criticism. In the case of the 1997-98 Asian crisis, it failed to keep the financial turmoil from spreading to other countries.

It also meant that taxpayer funds provided to the IMF by its member governments resulted in bailouts for big investors who had made risky bets on emerging countries.

AP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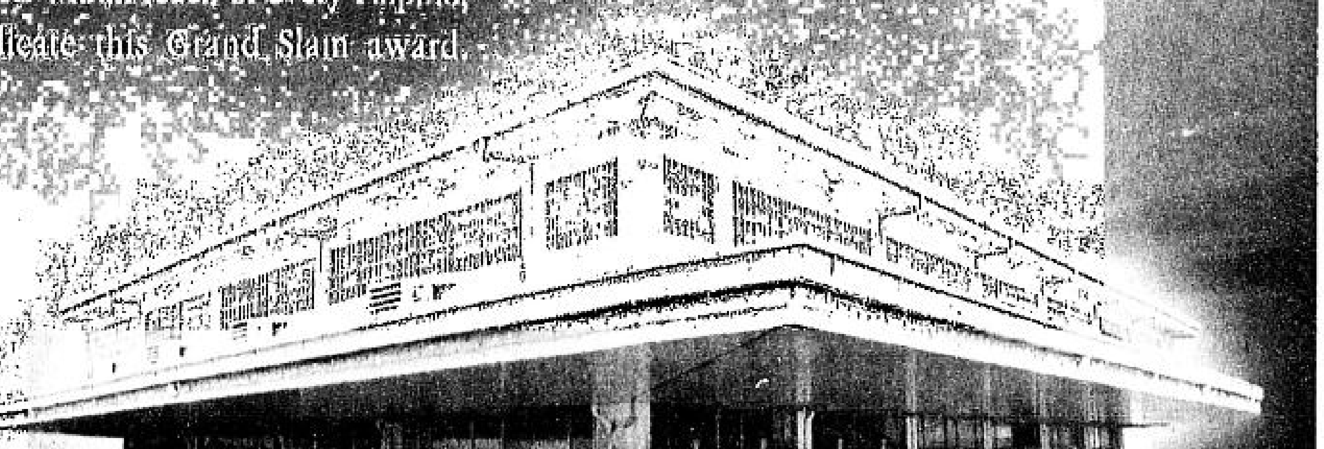

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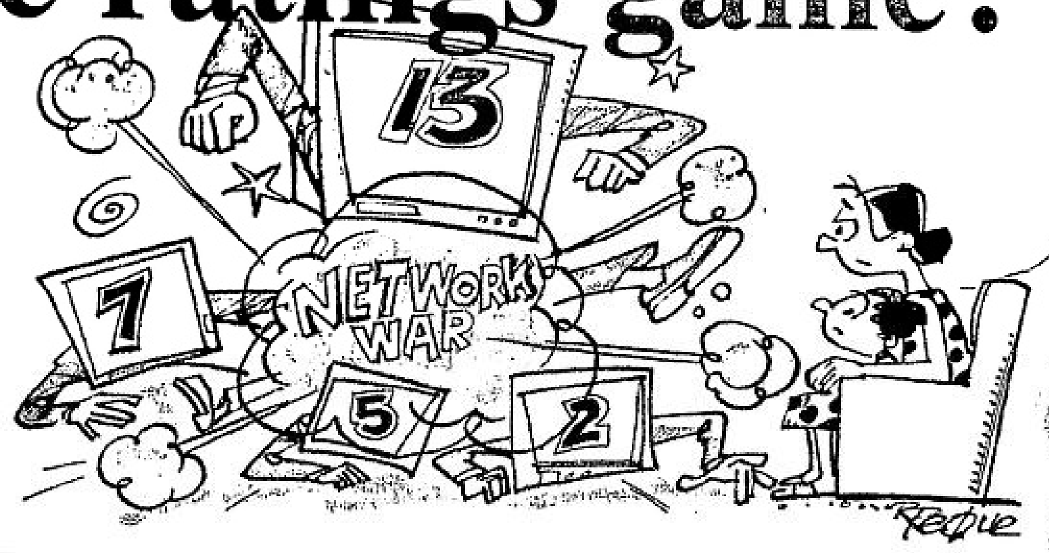
BUSINESS Friday

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Who's winning in the ratings game?



BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

AT THE rate the television networks are pursuing their programming, advertisers are practically losing ground in the traditional mass marketing approaches offered by the boob tube.

After a government-run station stole prime time ratings points from the two erstwhile industry leaders, all that their network programmers could come up with in their panic are "me-too" game shows in a futile struggle to regain supremacy.

Where does this leave the advertisers, never mind the viewers? Indeed, is Philippine television out of focus?

In the current network war, where does the advertiser come in?

After Channels 2 and 7 snubbed the game show, "Who wants to be a Millionaire?" producer Vic del Rosario got it based on gut-feel. He bought air time in IBC-13 for the show.

To say that the two network leaders regretted their decisions is an understatement, Del Rosario, via his Viva TV, now earns some P9 million to P15 million a month based on the phone calls made by viewers who want to join the game. Each call costs P10 per minute.

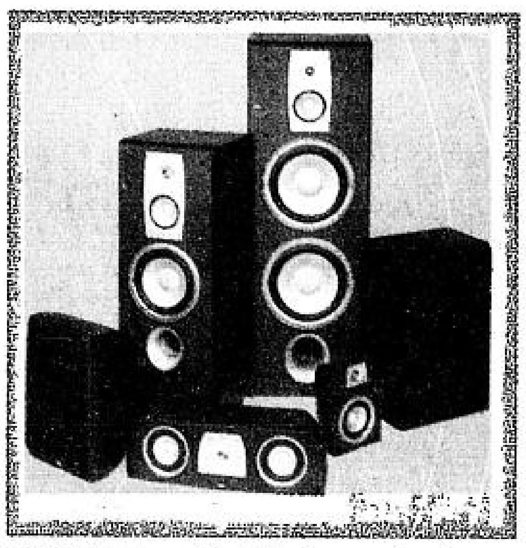
PLDT gets a share in the calls. A caller dials a 1-908-1000000, answers a question and gets a chance to be a contestant in the P2-million game.

On top of the earnings from the calls, Viva gets to take home the ad revenues from the show.

IBC's hit game show booted out the other networks from the No. 1 spot on certain nights of the week.

"If you're Channel 2 or 7 and you rate you will not change. The No. 1 will not change, usually it is the No. 3. We at Viva launched counter-programming," Del Rosario said in a forum called "Paano Magpapatok?" during the recently con-

WHOSE/ C2



WOULD you pay P1 million for speakers?

Making consumers listen and hoping they hear the big sound difference

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

MARKETING STRATEGY

AT LEAST 80 percent of the world's state-of-the art movie theaters and recording studios rely on JBL speakers to produce quality sound.

In the Philippines, practically all movie theaters and concert halls use JBL, testifying to the quality of its speaker system since James B. Lansing founded the company in the United States 1940s.

The fact that JBL is used by those who rely on producing the best sound to keep themselves in business, however, is both a blessing and a curse for Beyond Innovations Inc., exclusive distributor of JBL speakers in the Philippines.

It is a blessing because there is already brand recall for JBL. At least most people who are interested in audio and video know what the brand is and what it stands for.

James Lansing was credited for having redefined cinema sound in the 1940s with the introduction of speakers that were still used by sound professionals half a century later.

When Leo Fender of Fender Guitar fame said the JBL speakers were the ideal for his electric guitar designs, JBL catapulted into the world of rock and roll. JBL speakers were used for famous rock festivals in the '60s until the '70s.

In the 1980s, JBL speaker was selected by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for the Grammy awards ceremonies. Today, JBL has research and development centers in Europe and the United States to keep it ahead of the competition.

These credentials augur well for brand recognition but these attributes also make it difficult for JBL to penetrate the growing middle market.

This is because of the impression made that only the very rich people with money to burn can afford to have their own JBL speakers at home.

Hans Kenneth Tan, Beyond Innovations president, admits that there are speaker systems that cost as much as P1 million but then there are good quality complete JBL speaker systems that go for about P19,000.

Tan says even the most basic system is enough to replicate the movie experience or the concert hall experience in the buyer's own home.

"The company has been able to achieve enough economies of scale to allow us to provide top quality speaker systems at this price," Tan explains.

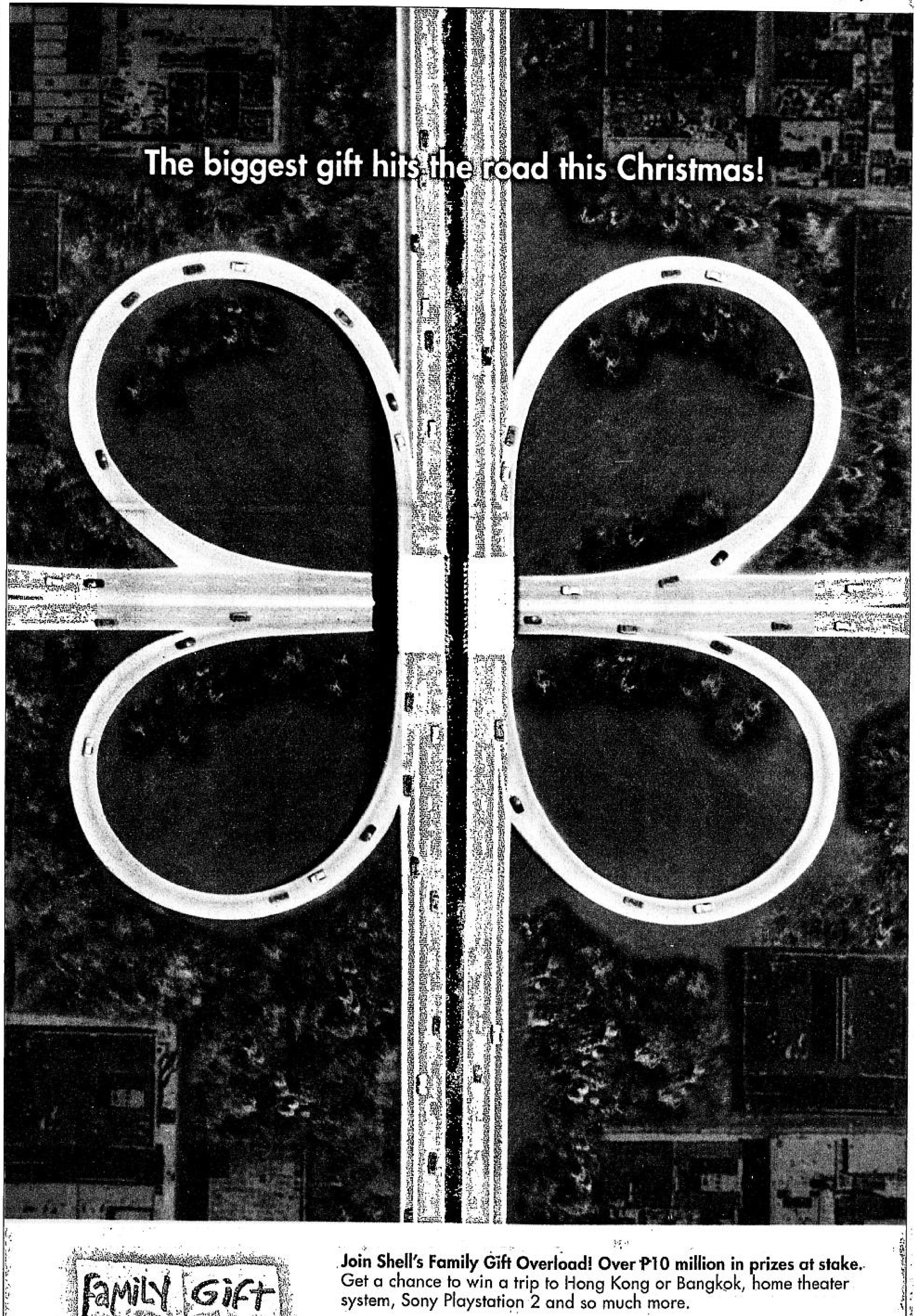
The price tag is still a bit steep compared to the mini-component systems that come with speakers and a CD or DVD player, but Tan says the better sound quality of a speaker system like JBL can justify the price difference.

This is one reason why Beyond Innovations has tied up with specialized appliance dealers, movie theaters and malls to showcase the capability of the JBL speaker. Through these exhibits, prospective buyers can literally hear the difference.

"We try to replicate the home theater experience during these exhibits. We want to convince them that there is a better way to listen to sound or to watch a movie and that it is not too expensive for them to get that experience," he says.

Tan explains that they also embarked on these mall tours to increase awareness on where audiophiles and videophiles can purchase JBL

MAKING/ C2



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Per DTI NCR Permit No: 3638 Series of 2001

A second chance for taxpayers

By Ma. Rosario T. Santos
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

IT IS Christmas once again.

For the government, it is also the season when it, through the finance department and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), offers programs to show its magnanimity toward taxpayers by offering programs such as compromise settlement of tax liabilities.

These efforts are intended to generate much-needed revenue to shore up shrinking government coffers.

Programs under the Arroyo administration includes: Voluntary Assessment Program (VAP); the implementation of the compromise settlement of tax liabilities; and the abatement of internal revenue tax liabilities.

The finance secretary, upon the recommendation of the commissioner of Internal Revenue, promulgated Revenue Regulations No. 13-2001 to implement Section 204(B) regarding the authority of the commissioner of Internal Revenue to abate or cancel internal revenue tax liabilities of certain taxpayers under any of these two grounds:

(1) The tax or any portion thereof appears to be unjustly or excessively assessed; or

(2) The administration and collection costs involved do not justify the collection of the amount due.

Please note, however, that disputes and assessments are not covered by these regulations. Section 228 of the Tax Code provides the procedure available to taxpayers to protest assessments.

Coverage

The internal revenue tax liabilities, which can be abated or canceled under certain circumstances as mentioned in the regulations, include the civil penalties provided under the Tax Code such as surcharge, interest and compromise penalty.

Surcharge is a civil penalty imposed by law as an addition to the internal revenue tax required to be paid. It is equivalent to 25 percent to 50 percent of the amount of the tax due, under certain cases provided under Sections 248(A) and (B) of the Tax Code.

The interest rate of at least 20 percent, on the other hand, is assessed and collected on any unpaid amount of tax as provided under Section 249(A) of the Tax Code.

Compromise penalties under RMO No. 1-90, as amended, are imposed as such for internal revenue violations, i.e. failure to pay any internal revenue tax at the time or times required by law or regulation.

This penalty is the suggested amount to settle the taxpayer's liability through an out-of-court compromise or settlement.

Grounds

The regulations enumerate the instances in which the penalties and/or interest imposed on a taxpayer may be abated or canceled:

A. When tax or any portion thereof is unjust or excessive

1. When the filing of the return/payment of tax is made at the wrong venue;

2. When the payment of a tax is due to the error of a revenue officer;

3. When taxpayer fails to file the return and pay the tax on time due to prolonged labor dispute, force majeure, legitimate business reverses such as the following instances, provided, however, that the abatement shall only cover the surcharge and the compromise penalty and not the interest imposed under Section 249 of the Tax Code.

4. When a taxpayer fails to comply due to difficulty interpreting the law;

5. When a taxpayer fails to file the return and pay the correct tax on time due to circumstances beyond his control, provided, however, that abatement shall cover only the surcharge and the compromise penalty and not the interest;

6. Late payment of the tax under meritorious circumstances. These include:

a. One day late filing and remittance due to failure to beat bank cut-off time;

b. Use of the wrong tax form but correct amount of tax was remitted;

c. Filing an amended return under meritorious circumstances, provided, however, that abatement shall cover only the penalties and not the interest;

d. Surcharge erroneously imposed;

e. Late filing of return due to unresolved issue on classification/valuation of real property (for capital gains tax cases, etc.);

f. Offsetting of taxes of the same kind, i.e. overpayment in one quarter/month is offset against underpayment in another quarter/month;

g. Automatic offsetting of overpayment of one kind of withholding tax against the underpayment of another kind;

h. Late remittance of withholding tax on compensation of expatriates for services rendered in the Philippines pending the issuance by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of the license to the Philippine branch office or subsidiary, provided, however, that the abatement shall only cover the surcharge and the compromise penalty and not the interest;

i. Wrong use of Tax Credit Certificate (TCC) where Tax Debit Memo (TDM) was not properly applied for;

B. Administration and collection costs are more than the amount to be collected.

1. Abatement of penalties on assessment confirmed by the lower court but appealed by the taxpayer to a higher court;

2. Abatement of penalties on withholding tax assessment under meritorious cases;

3. Abatement of penalties on delayed installment payment under meritorious cases;

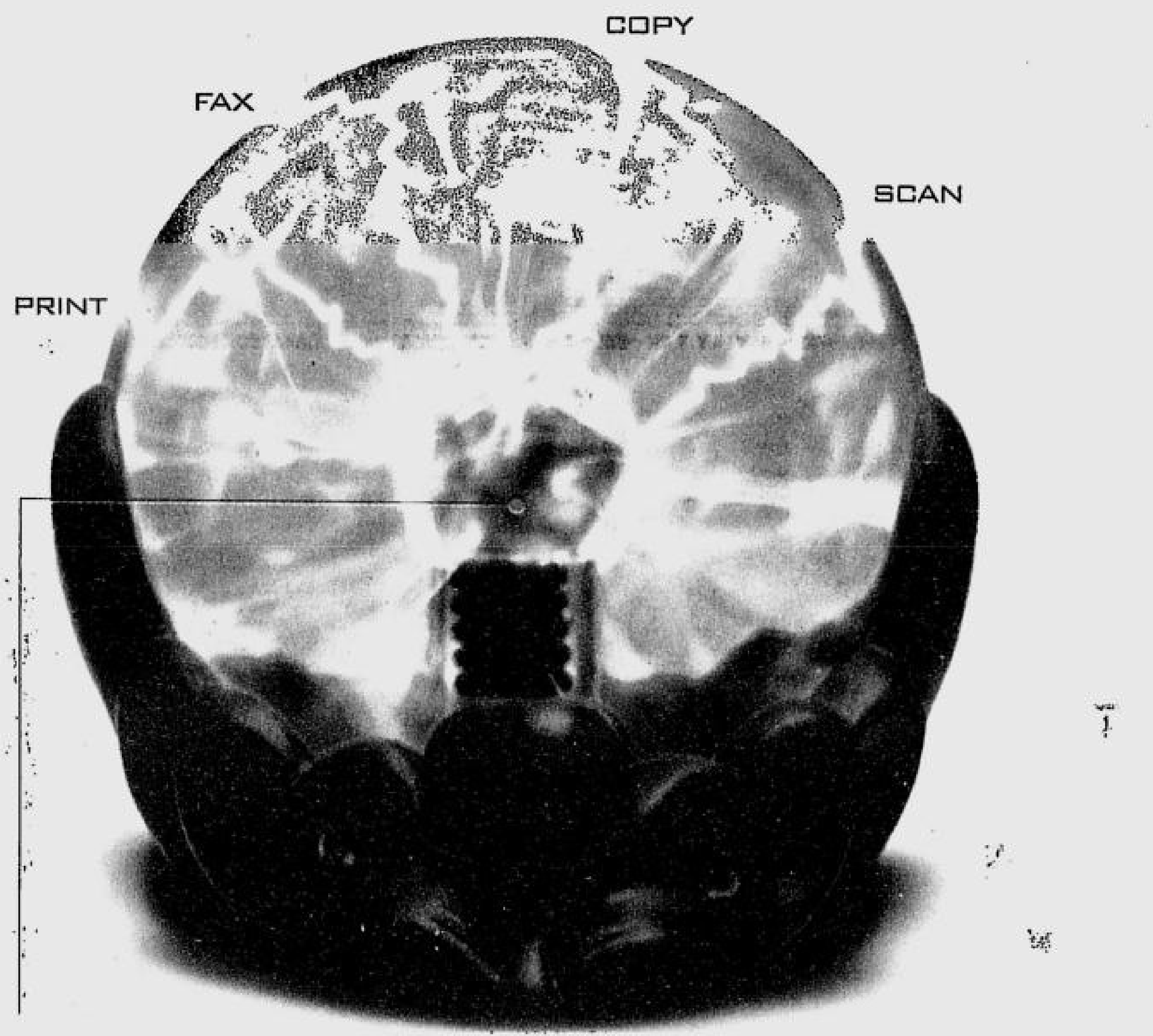
4. Abatement of penalties on assessment reduced after reinvestigation but taxpayer is still contesting reduced assessment; and

Procedure

The abatement or cancellation is, however, not automatic. An application for abatement or cancellation of tax, penalties and/or interest should be filed with the BIR stating the reasons and causes for such request.

The processing office should act on the application for abatement or cancellation within five days from receipt. The BIR National Office has 30 days within which to act on the case.

(For comments, e-mail sgv mail@Andersen WO.)



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DAVAO Door 1 Navigators Building., Ponce Cor. Gempesaw Street Davao, City Tel:(082)222-33-92
LA UNION Grd Flr., Magdalena Peralta Building Sevilla Norte, Quezon Avenue San Fernando, La Union
Tel: (072)242-04-40 / (072)242-45-87
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Whose . . .

(From page C1)

cluded 17th Philippine Advertising Congress.

He cited that in the US the ranking of the three largest networks constantly change depending on the innovations they introduce.

In the Philippines, what happens is that if there is a hit show, the others simply follow the format.

Logically, this means the audience being reached is the same. What does this mean for advertisers?

As Venus Navalta, McCann Erickson Phils. SVP for media pointed out in the forum, once you have reached your target market, it is very expensive to continue reaching it.

She cited TV host Boy Abunda's "Private Conversations" which has a very limited audience but captures the A market.

Yet Navalta said although they advertise in the show, once they have reached their market, it becomes costly to continue putting ads to target the same group.

Navalta added that the networks should stop imitating each other. She called upon the networks to get to know their audience more and address them more directly. She said the advertising agencies have been investing heavily on market research. She called on the networks to do the same.

Do networks create new shows purely based on guesswork? Or is it a matter of waiting for the other to introduce something new and then just following suit?

Del Rosario said in his 36 years in entertainment, "no one person can say the formula for a hit show. The entertainment business is like fashion, you guess what people want. It is gut-feel."

Comedian Michael V says a show that bridges the gap between various segments of society will sell.

Actor Johnny Delgado describes a hit show as one promoting social values.

Movie director Joey Reyes says the ingredients for a hit show are—it is entertaining, profitable, has good advertising load, and has social values.

Channel 7 head of entertainment Wilma Galvante says a show that rates is a hit show.

Of all the sectors in media, the one which earns the most is TV because of its higher rates and larger reach compared with the smaller audiences of radio and newspaper. This is primarily because of its shot-gun approach where your ad or your show is supposedly watched by more people.

This compared with the smaller audiences of radio and newspapers.

But many marketing pundits say the days of TV's dominance is slowly ebbing away as the name of the game is niche marketing—you place your ads in venues that clearly address your target market.

Many wonder where the battle of the game shows will take the local television industry. Many say it will likely go the way of the shawarma, the *lechon manok* and the *pandesal*.

Last year it was the battle of the Spanish telenovelas. Prior to that it was the animé war.

With all these ratings battle, have the demographics of the audience really changed? Or have viewers remained the same and only the shows are different?

Del Rosario may have been on the right track when he provided counter-programming. But now that everybody has followed suit—Channel 2 with "Game Ka Na Ba?;" Channel 7 with "Korek ka Dyan," Channel 5 with "Family Feud" and the "Price is Right," what happens next?

How long before the Filipino audience tires of all these? Or will they not?

With the hard times prevailing and waiting ahead, will game shows, because of their attractive prizes continue to draw the Filipino consumer into trying to earn his fortune via the wheel of fortune?

And the advertisers who are spending millions to support these shows, are they hitting their desired audience?

Making . . .

(From page C1)

speaker sets.

"JBL before was known only to a small group of audiophiles. The rest know about the brand but they don't know where to get it," he adds.

From small niche players, Beyond Innovations has increased its distribution network to include appliance dealers in the malls. Part of their strategy calls for educating the dealers on the nuances of JBL's speakers and to encourage them to prioritize the sale of JBL products over the competition.

"We try to give them more incentives and a lot of marketing support to encourage them to prioritize our products," he says.

Another project in the offing is the set up of dealer shops that will sell only JBL products as well as Harman/Kardon amplifiers and Infinity speakers.

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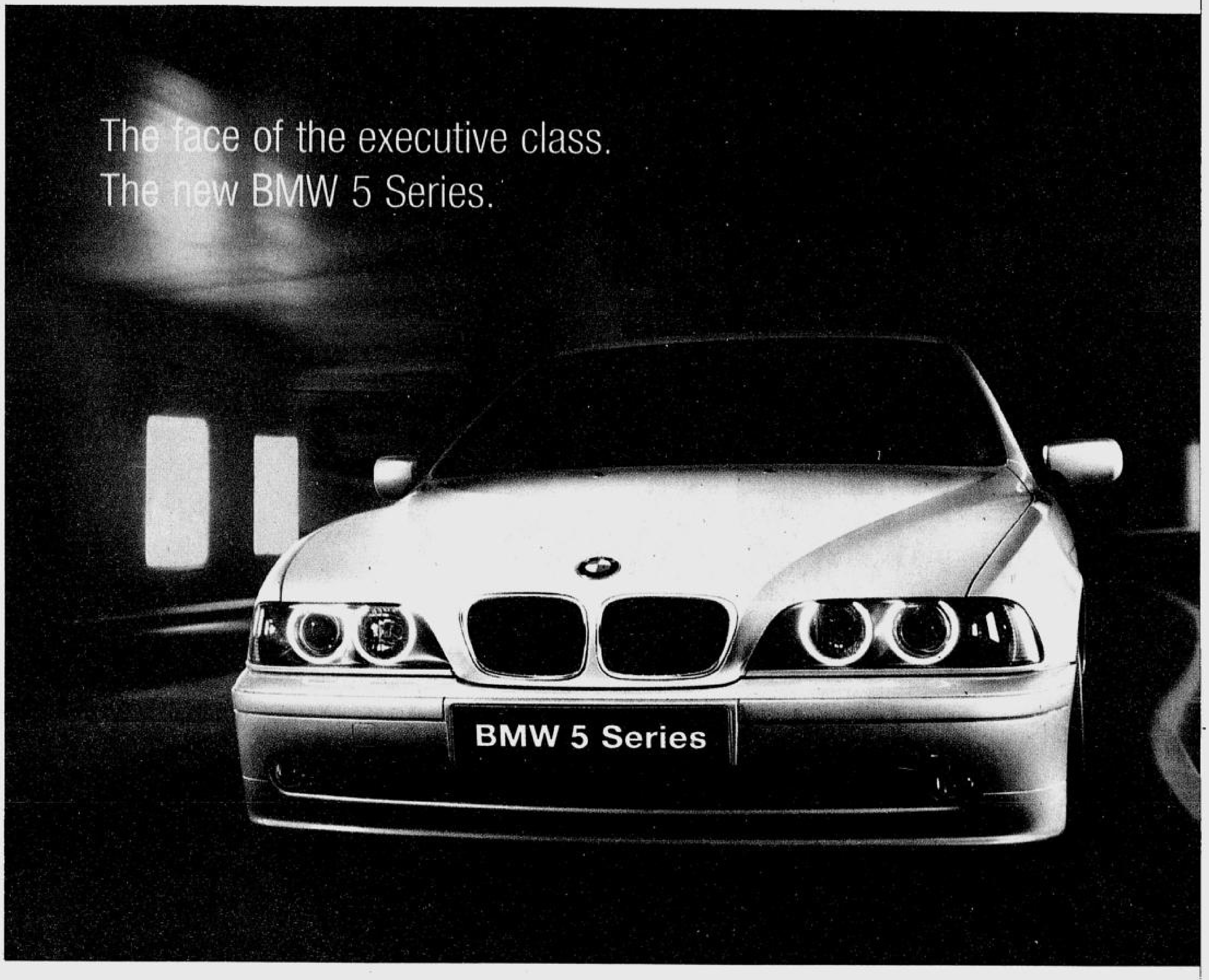
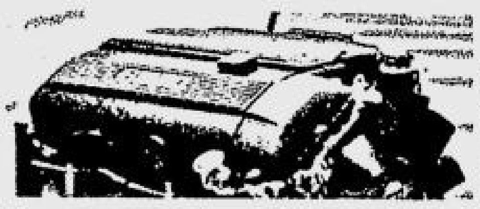
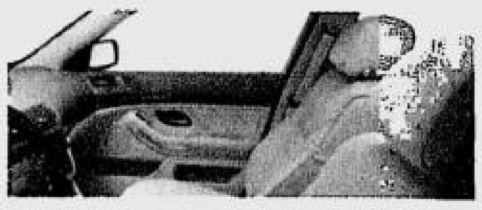


* The BMW 5 has been voted "Chefauto 2001" by Germany's magazine Impulse, 09/01 ** The BMW 5 Series touring has been voted "Company car of the year" by Germany's magazine Firmenauto in the category of "Premium Class Kombis", 07/01

More style:
the new Corona headlights.


More performance, less consumption and
fewer emissions: the new in-line six.


More luxury:
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What leads the business elite to success also drives the new BMW 5 Series: a superior, tailor-made concept for business professionals. This proof of leadership offers more style with the new Corona headlight design, more power and running refinement with the new 6-cylinder engine generation and even more innovation with sophisticated technology of ASC+T. These and other features have made the BMW 5 Series "Chief Executive Car 2001"* as well as "Company car of the year"**.

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Wooing advertisers and looking back at the forgotten market

By Roger Pe

BILL Bernbach, father of modern day advertising, said: "All of us who profess to be in the media have a responsibility to our society. We can vulgarize it or lift it onto a higher level."

This message was delivered during the recently concluded 17th Philippine Advertising Congress which saw a record-breaking number of delegates from the advertising industry gather together in a three-day conference.

Various media groups wooed advertisers by putting up special shows and giving away major prizes.

The biggest prize was given away by GMA-7—P1 million cash. On top of the P1 million, GMA-7 gave away seven Rolex watches.

Viva TV, producer of "Who wants to be a Millionaire," put up over P1.25 million worth of cash prizes when it played the game five times, putting up P250,000 as the highest prize for each game.

Three contestants won P250,000 each, one won P100,000 and one won P10,000.

They also gave out over P100,000 more in consolation prizes.

ABS-CBN which kept on saying they will give away cold cash did not give any cash prize but gave out cruises and gift checks at Duty Free.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, which hosted the lunch for the first day of the conference, Nov. 22, gave out laptops and Palms.

The speakers on the first day spoke positively of the industry.

Susan Dimacali, chair of Adboard, extolled the Filipinos' resiliency and their capacity to bounce back from crisis after crisis, especially with the recent World Trade Center bombings.

Pedro "Noy" Dy-Liacco, overall chair of the PAC, zeroed in on the theme by reminding advertising and marketing practitioners to romance their consumers so that relationships can be long-lasting. Dy-Liacco added that a breakdown of this courtship could lead to spiralling downturns in our economic landscape. He also challenged everyone to "bring back the sunshine and good news" and reject the bearers of otherwise.

Keynote speaker Jaime Zobel de Ayala, president and CEO of Ayala Corp., said, "clients should try new paradigms in advertising creativity and not to presume that the local market is not ready for global trends."

"What applies to the west, also applies to us," Jaza, as he is more known, said

Forgotten market

If only the government can harness the vast resources of the ad industry, this country can witness an artistic and cultural rebirth. A plethora of creativity can blossom. All it needs to do is connect to its deep well of talents that is just waiting to be tapped.

One of the highlights of the congress was the opening play, "Ungol! Ang Sigaw ng mga Walang Tinig," the congress opening entrée, and a play about the rise of Edsa II.

Abby Jimenez, congress overall creative chair, is credited for assembling a rare ensemble of talents for mounting the congress' opening number.

Abby, together with her husband Mon, who've built the Jimenez D'Arcy empire as one of the dynamic ad agencies in the Philippines, hatched on an idea that was conceived and written by ad people exclusively for ad people.

Abby commissioned two of the industry's most gifted people—Jaime Santiago, managing partner of TBWA-SMP and staging committee chair, and Robert Labayen, executive creative director of J. Walter Thompson to do the songs and final libretto.

Santiago was inspired by a Randy David article about the poor and had a vision of seeing a huge Philippine flag waving on stage.

The Labayen lyrics was the substance of that vision.

Santiago translated and adapted Jesus Christ Superstar in Filipino and won an Aliw Award in 1979 for Best Dinner Theatre Musical and a Famas Award for the movie theme song "Hindi Laro ang Ibigin Ka" in 1981.

The play focused on a forgotten but strong market.

SAGISAG NG PANGULO NG PILIPINAS

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo courted the advertising industry and called upon them to build a better picture of the country in the international community.

COMEDIENNE Tessie Tomas spoofs Imelda Marcos.

JON Santos was a hit portraying Kris Aquino, President Estrada and Vilma Santos.

Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez shows Ayala Corp. CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala a copy of Libre, the newspaper's free tabloid with a circulation of 100,000. Pedro Dy-Liacco, SVP of Nestle Phils. Inc., and overall chair of the advertising congress, looks on.

PHILIPPINE DAI
INQUIRE

FOR the second time, the Inquirer brings the Apo Hiking Society to the advertising congress.

UNGOL! The opening number of the congress was a tearjerker as it depicted the forgotten market.

Top lady exec vows to bring tourists to RP

CHINA Airlines intends to fly to mainland China in the future, but the plan depends on an a government-to-government policy lifting the restriction.

The plan was bared by the first woman president of CAL, Christine Tsung, in a press conference held recently at the airline's first class Dynasty lounge at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport before she departed for Taipei. She was in Manila for four days and met with Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez and officials of the Civil Aeronautics Board.

Tsung said that her talks with Philippine government officials opened up new horizons for a much closer cooperation that will be mutually beneficial for the airlines industry of the two countries, and made an assurance that the suspension of its landing rights last October 2000 will not be repeated.

CAL's landing rights to Manila were suspended by the Civil Aeronautics Board for poaching on the passengers of the Philippine Airlines.

She also said that CAL, just like any other foreign airline, was affected by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, but looks forward for a better year next year when people would get over their apprehension to travel by air.

Tsung also said that CAL has been employing air marshals even long before the Sept. 11 incidents, implying that all security measures to make passengers safety have been a priority ever since. "The Sept. 11 incidents have strengthened even further our security," she added.

Tsung, whose name has become a by-word in business worldwide as she is featured regularly in "Forbes Magazine" and "Who's Who in America and Who's Who in American Women," said that CAL is launching a campaign to bring more Taiwanese tourists into the Philippines to help shore up its tourism industry.

Her career exposure includes ranking executive positions in a number of internationally known companies in the United States, where she gained a wide range of experience in finance, cost control, marketing, auditing, administration and personnel.

CHINA Airlines' first woman president, named as one of Forbes Magazine's most powerful women in international business, arrived in Manila recently to oversee CAL's operations in the country. She is welcomed by Domingo Lee (left).

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APC's new UPS models have enhanced features and are better equipped to regulate utility power to your protected systems and provide seamless back-up power in the event of a power failure. And because they are our new models, you know they can handle and protect your data unlike any other.

So, make use of the APC Trade-UPS Program to upgrade your old UPS. You can get instant cash rebates of up to P25,000. We will even dispose of the old UPS for you at absolutely no cost. Choose from any of these APC UPS products - Back-UPS®, Smart-UPS®, Matrix-UPS® and Symmetra® Power Array™ for the most reliable protection. Call APC today to find out more about the Trade-UPS Program.

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APC
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US stores sell old toys, nostalgia

NEW YORK—Like many other 11-year-olds, Sam Breslin wants a GameCube.

But the chatty New Yorker is also very interested in classic games that debuted when video game platforms like the $199 GameCube from Japanese video-game giant Nintendo Co. Ltd. were just a futuristic fantasy.

Yahtzee, Hungry Hungry Hippos, Battleship, Shrinky Dinks, Tinkertoys, Trouble, Lite Brite and other classics from Baby Boomer and Generation-X childhoods are back this year, retailers say.

Breslin clutched the classic strategy game Mastermind, which dates from about 1970 and costs $9.99, as he browsed the aisles at the new Toys "R" Us megastore in New York's Times Square with his parents and younger brother.

"No batteries! There's nothing to put together!" he said, explaining what he liked about games from his parents' era.

"Even though Monopoly lasts a long time, it's still fun. It's long, so the fun lasts longer. Connect Four is fun, too," Breslin said.

Retailers and others say it's partly parents' nostalgia, partly some straitened economic circumstances, and partly reaction to the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States that caused some to focus on home and family.

Indeed, the toy sector is expected to hold up better than some others as parents go to extra lengths to create a happy holiday season in the aftermath of the September terror attacks. Toys with tradition are playing particularly well in this environment, retailers said.

"I'm really surprised," Charlene Ramos, of Yonkers, said of the retro items as she took snapshots of her child playing in a Cabbage Patch Kids display at Toys "R" Us. "I'll buy a lot of old games."

Nishi Ramcharan, a Toys "R" Us sales associate, said adults seem to be playing a lot of Candyland. "They're pretty amazed these things are coming back. They say, 'Oh my God, I played this when I was little.'"

Alan Marcus, spokesperson for FAO Schwarz, owner of New York's toy store icon on Fifth Avenue, along with about 40 other stores, said the resurgence of classic toys started last year and has now kicked into full gear.

"Part of it has to do with the trend that people are spending more time with their families," Marcus said. "They're looking for toys that have a broader-based appeal. Board games really aren't so old-fashioned anymore, especially in the wake of 9/11," he said, referring to Sept. 11.

No. 2 toy maker Hasbro Inc. launched its Family Game Night campaign in 1998, with commercials and a website that encourage families to set aside one night a week to play board games together, such as Monopoly and Clue.

Nostalgia triumph

Very low promotional prices have also had in a hand in moving classic toys from the shelves, said Jon Reilly, spokesperson for K-B Toys, one of the largest US toy retailers with 1,400 stores. The Game of Life is $17.99 on the company's website, kbtoys.com. Monopoly is even cheaper at $14.99.

Holiday retail sales in general are expected to be relatively flat from a year ago, as shoppers snap up deep discounts of the type often seen after the holiday rush is over. Consumer confidence, seen as the key to the recovery in the US economy, was badly dented by the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Still, many toy makers, retailers and analysts say they expect parents to spend as much or more money on their kids as last year to help restore a sense of stability, safety and comfort. Parents want to give children what they played when they grew up—a time when the world seemed like a safer place, they say.

NOSTALGIA/ C7

ROCES confers with Bienvenido S. Policarpio, SVP for Marketing of Prudential Life Plan and overall chair of the 22nd Agora Awards executive committee.

AMABLE Cruz Aguiluz IX, president of ACA Franchise Group, holds the trophy for Outstanding Marketing Achievement in entrepreneurship (small- to medium-scale).

ASIAN Institute of Management president Roberto F. de Ocampo is all smiles as Tomas Lopez, one of AIM's professors, gets the award for Marketing Education.

Saluting Filipino's drive to succeed in tough times

EVERY year the Philippine Marketing Association opens its doors to marketers nationwide in the following categories: Marketing Company of the Year, Marketing Management, Marketing Education, Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship for small-, medium- and large-scale businesses, Outstanding Achievement in Export Marketing and the Asia Pacific Award for Marketing Excellence.

The annual awards serve as a reminder of the Filipino's unwavering drive to succeed despite the dynamic challenges emerging in a rapidly globalizing world-culture and world-economy.

The PMA recognizes excellence in marketing by giving credit and tribute to the most deserving local companies and individuals who have devoted their time and expertise in their respective areas of involvement and have contributed to the growth of their profession.

Unilab Laboratories Inc. grabbed the Marketing Company of the Year award. Unilab is a pharmaceutical firm that exports products to Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong and Vietnam.

It was founded in 1945 and started as a small corner drugstore in the commercial district of Manila.

Cesar M. de la Cruz, deputy CEO of PT. Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk, got the Asia Pacific Award for Marketing Excellence.

PMA president Jose Jesus Roces congratulates Dr. Abraham F. Pascual, chair and CEO of Pascual Laboratories Group, which bagged the Outstanding Marketing Achievement in Entrepreneurship award (large-scale).

Indofood is owned by the Salim Group, the same one that owns the First Pacific Co. in Hong Kong (which owns PLDT and Smart Philippines). One of his notable achievements in the Indofood was the development and the successful implementation of the Triple A Strategy which signifies Acceptability (ensuring the products are of the highest quality and satisfy consumer needs); Affordability (offering low-cost products to maximize market penetration); and Availability (possessing an extensive distribution network).

Pascual Laboratories got the Outstånding Achievement in Entrepreneurship award (large-scale).

IN 1944, Isosceles and Leonora Pascual founded a one-room pharmaceutical business to help the war-ravaged nation fight tuberculosis and vitamin deficiency.

Today the group is a P950-million. all-Filipino healthcare enterprise and ranks 23rd in a pharmaceutical company dominated by multinational firms.

ACA Franchise group got the award for achievement in entrepreneurship (small- to medium-scale). Amable Cruz Aguiluz IX got a P5-million loan and established the first ACA Video shop in 1991. He set the trend by introducing VCD and DVD digital film format.

Tagged Video King, he is gaining the reputation of being Franchise King with more than 300 successful company-owned and franchise stores under the ACA group which generated over P500 million in revenues last year.

Luis Villafuerte, president of Lara's Gifts and Decors, got the outstanding achievement in export marketing. He achieved an 85-percent growth rate for his firm from 1991 to 2000.

Lara's Gifts is the country's first exporter that transformed and developed the abaca rope into creative picture frames, candle holders, napkin rings. wine holder, lamps, boxes and even seats. It supplies to US stores like Target, which has 1,200 stores in the US.

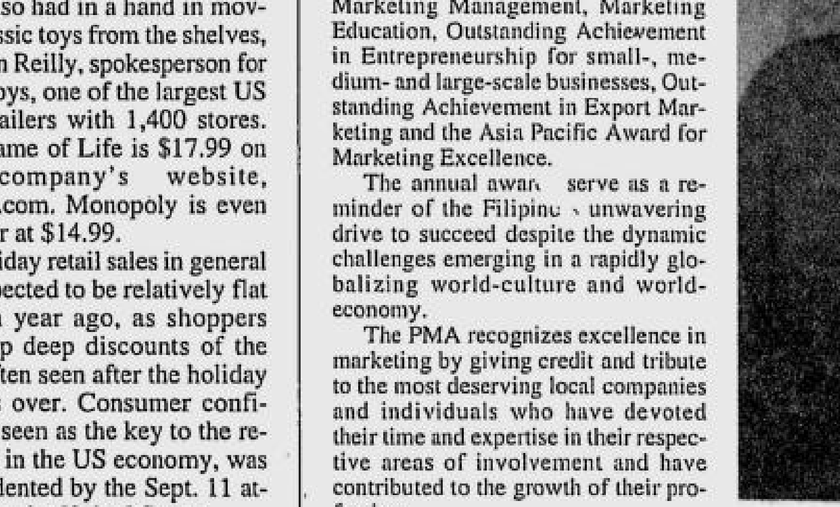
Why there can never be a world without pens

FROM cave paintings to cuneiform pictographic script, Egyptian hieroglyphics to modern cursive, writing is acclaimed as one of mankind's greatest skills. And pens, in various forms and make, have aided our cultural development in no small way.

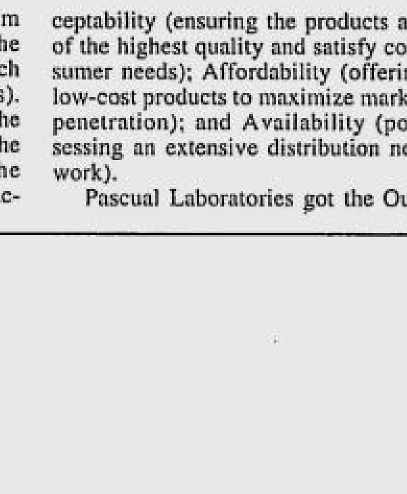
At the forefront of advances in writing technology is Parker, arguably the world's best-selling pen company. Humanity has come a long way from the romantic quill pens of yore, farmed from geese and other birds. Parker has enabled clean, ink-free pockets (a fact we take for granted these days) by crafting pens with nibs that never flood. It created luxury pens made with filigrees of precious metals and mother-of-pearl. With the introduction of plastic, Parker marketed unbreakable pens and advertised them by casting Parker pens into the Grand Canyon. The classic Jotter, identified by its push button feature and pocket arrow clip, is both reliable and affordable. Big businesses use Parker pens to promote their marketing themes, their company logos tastefully reproduced on the pen's surface. Many famous people like the British Royal family, JFK, Puccini, Douglas MacArthur and Arthur Conan Doyle used the Parker pen. This year, Parker was voted Reader's

WHY/ C7

Other banks see you as



we see you as



At Bank of Commerce, we value your worth as an individual -- never in terms of pesos. Because of this, whether you are a small depositor or a big client, you're sure to get fast, reliable service that others take for granted.

Get simple, no-frills value banking, with

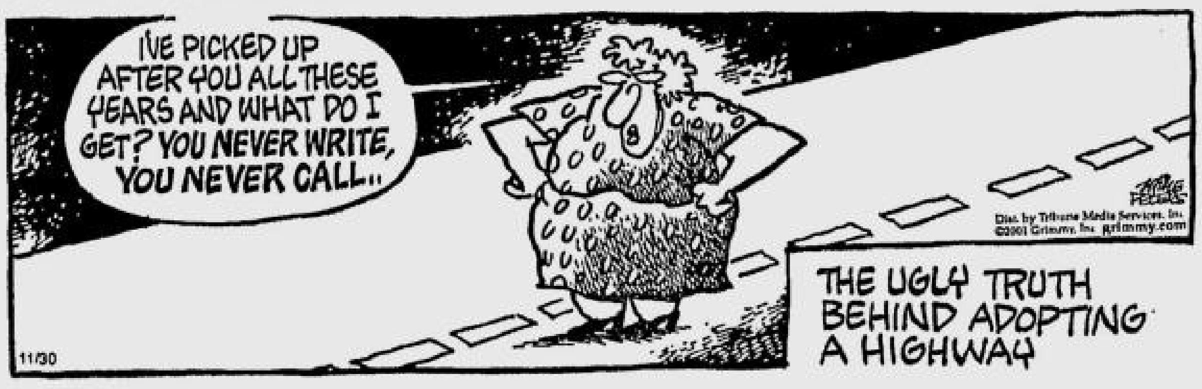
Bank of Commerce
Bank with Good Values.
www.bankcom.com.ph

For Inquiries call Customer Service at 848-8651 to 53 or visit our head office at **Bankers' Centre, 6764 Ayala Ave., Makati City.** Member: PDIC. Deposits Insured up to P100,000 per depositor. MEGALINK

COMIC Relief

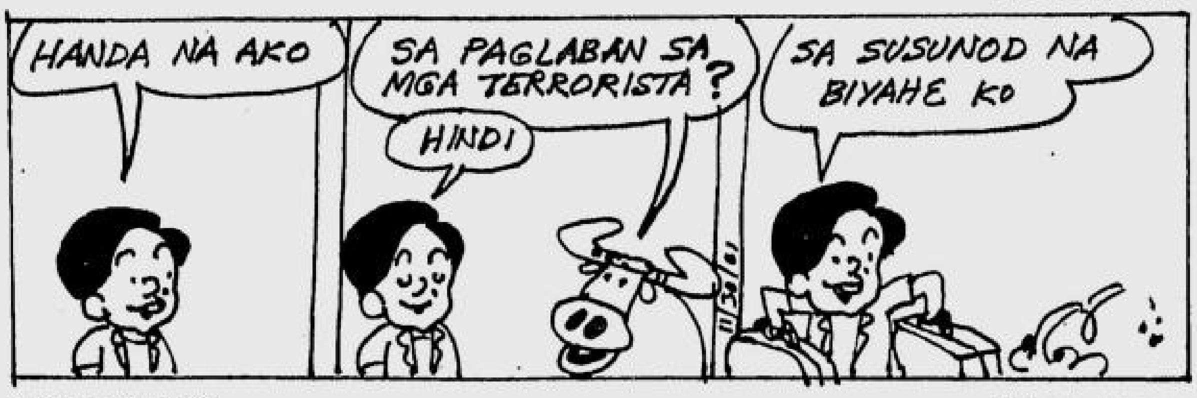
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I'VE PICKED UP AFTER YOU ALL THESE YEARS AND WHAT DO I GET? YOU NEVER WRITE, YOU NEVER CALL..
THE UGLY TRUTH BEHIND ADOPTING A HIGHWAY
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc. ©2001 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com
11/30

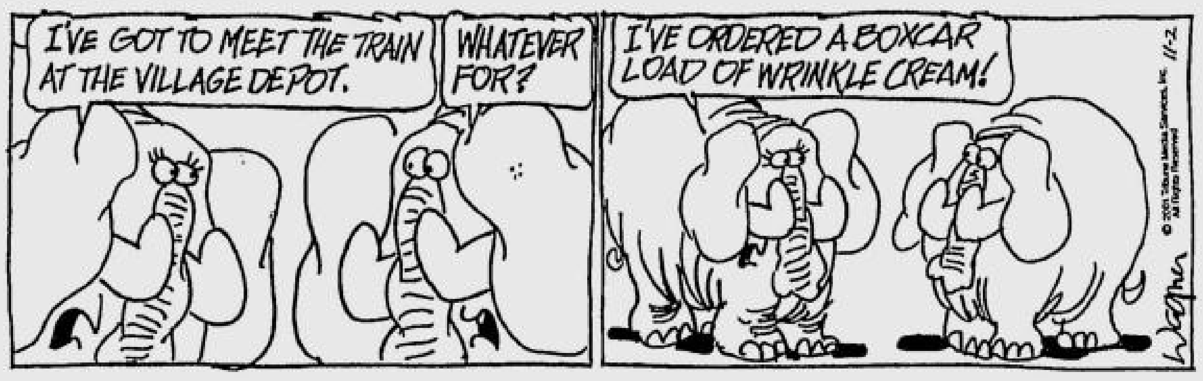
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HANDA NA AKO
SA PAGLABAN SA MGA TERRORISTA?
HINDI
SA SUSUNOD NA BIYAHE KO

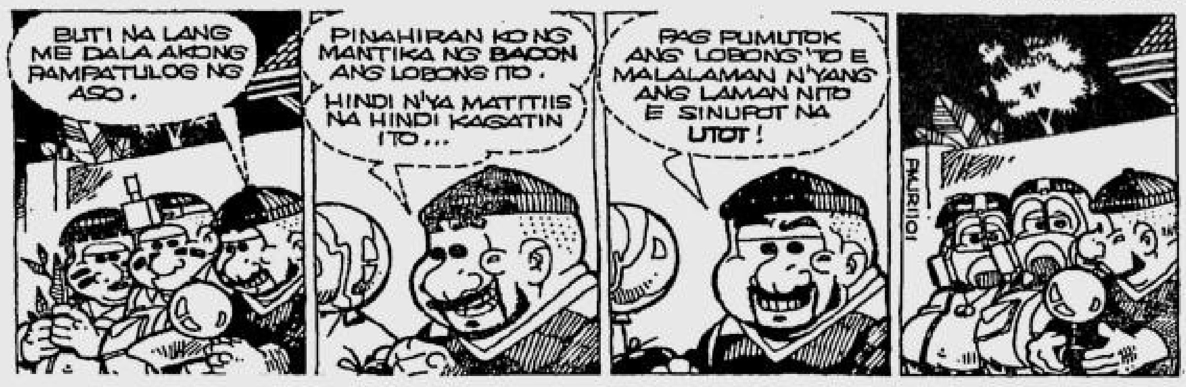
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I'VE GOT TO MEET THE TRAIN AT THE VILLAGE DEPOT.
WHATEVER FOR?
I'VE ORDERED A BOXCAR LOAD OF WRINKLE CREAM!
11-2
Wagner

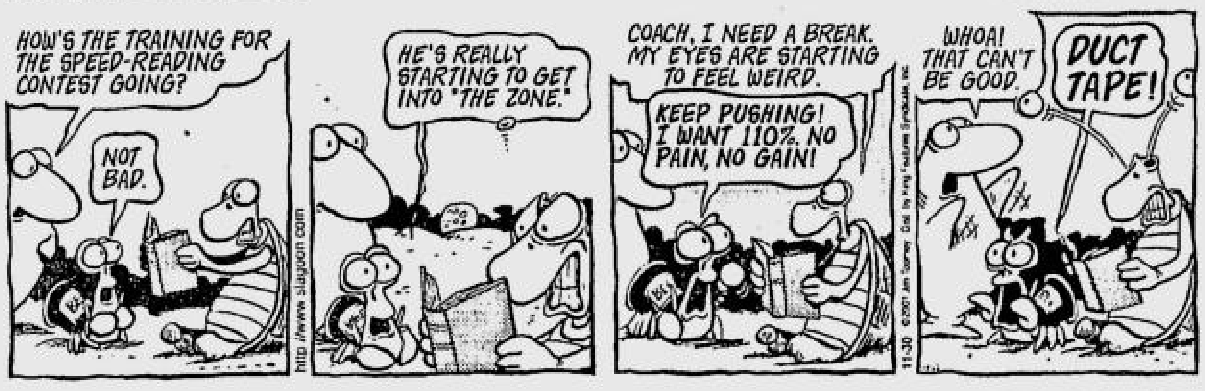
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BUTI NA LANG ME DALA AKONG PAMPATULOG NG ASO.
PINAHIRAN KO NG MANTIKA NG BACON ANG LOBONG ITO.
HINDI N'YA MATITIIS NA HINDI KAGATIN ITO...
PAG PUMUTOK ANG LOBONG 'TO E MALALAMAN N'YANG ANG LAMAN NITO E SINUPOT NA UTOT!
PMJR1101

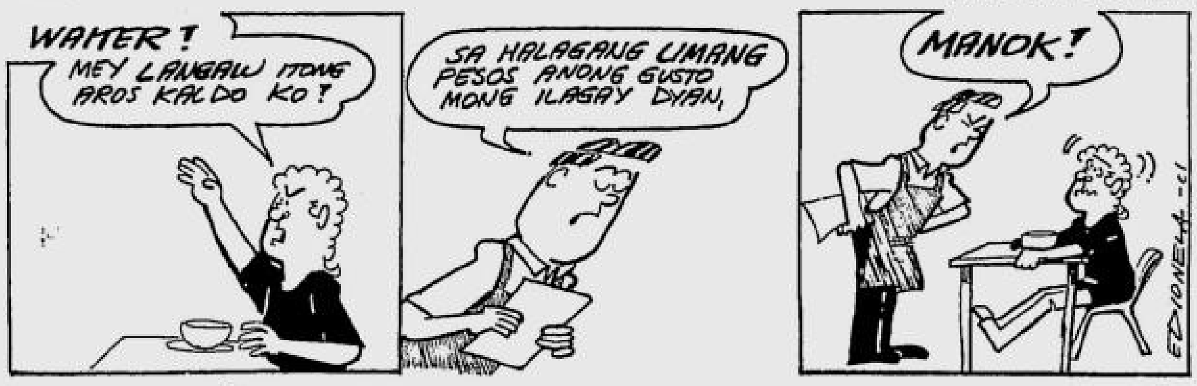
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HOW'S THE TRAINING FOR THE SPEED-READING CONTEST GOING?
NOT BAD.
HE'S REALLY STARTING TO GET INTO "THE ZONE."
COACH, I NEED A BREAK. MY EYES ARE STARTING TO FEEL WEIRD.
KEEP PUSHING! I WANT 110%. NO PAIN, NO GAIN!
WHOA! THAT CAN'T BE GOOD.
DUCT TAPE!
http://www.slagoon.com
11-30

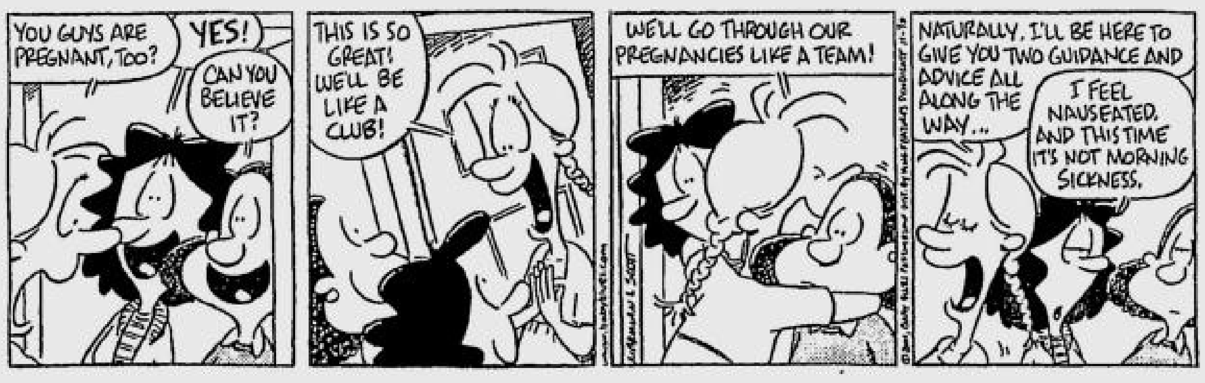
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


WAITER! MEY LANGAW ITONG AROS KALDO KO!
SA HALAGANG LIMANG PESOS ANONG GUSTO MONG ILAGAY DYAN,
MANOK!
EDIONELA-01

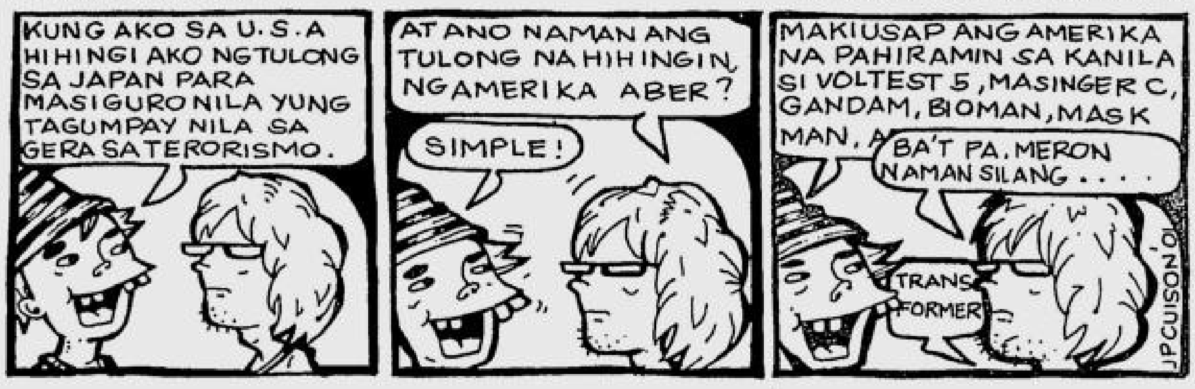
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU GUYS ARE PREGNANT, TOO?
YES!
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
THIS IS SO GREAT! WE'LL BE LIKE A CLUB!
WE'LL GO THROUGH OUR PREGNANCIES LIKE A TEAM!
NATURALLY, I'LL BE HERE TO GIVE YOU TWO GUIDANCE AND ADVICE ALL ALONG THE WAY...
I FEEL NAUSEATED. AND THIS TIME IT'S NOT MORNING SICKNESS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


KUNG AKO SA U.S.A HIHINGI AKO NG TULONG SA JAPAN PARA MASIGURO NILA YUNG TAGUMPAY NILA SA GERA SA TERORISMO.
AT ANO NAMAN ANG TULONG NA HIHINGIN NG AMERIKA ABER?
SIMPLE!
MAKIUSAP ANG AMERIKA NA PAHIRAMIN SA KANILA SI VOLTEST 5, MASINGER C, GANDAM, BIOMAN, MASK MAN, A
BA'T PA. MERON NAMAN SILANG....
TRANSFORMER
JPCUISON 01

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ben Stiller, David Mamet, Billy Idol, Mandy Patinkin, Dick Clark, Des'ree, Ivan Rodriguez

Happy Birthday: You can make romantic connections or rekindle a stale relationship. It's time to take responsibility for your actions or your inactivity. The future will look brighter if you deal with unresolved issues. Your numbers: 6, 19, 25, 33, 37, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't slack off. Physical activities will help you get into shape before the new year. Too much talk will lead to disagreements. Refrain from driving as though the highway were a racetrack.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Watch your spending habits. You may want to be extravagant, especially if you are buying gifts for others, but financial troubles would be stressful.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): View your personal situation clearly before taking action. Don't evade issues or twist the truth. Face any demons straight on to get back on track.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may be wired today. Don't push your luck with authority figures. Secret affairs inevitably backfire and lead to problems with friends, family or colleagues.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will do a superb job today. Meet the deadline by enlisting someone who owes you a favor. Then socialize after hours. Spending time with colleagues can be entertaining and worthwhile.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep your cool. You may become angry with the wrong person if you react too quickly. Be careful what you say, or you'll have regrets.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Spending time with a loved one is the best way to relieve stress. Deep discussions will lead to discord. "Make love, not war," is the motto today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do not participate in joint financial ventures. You will have a problem dealing with people who don't share your sentiments. Stabilize your own financial portfolio.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You owe some leisure time to yourself and your family. Family trips or projects should be on your mind. Let your loved ones know how much you care.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be prepared to stop anyone who tries to stand in the way of your progress today. You are in a high-energy mode and will have no patience for lazy people

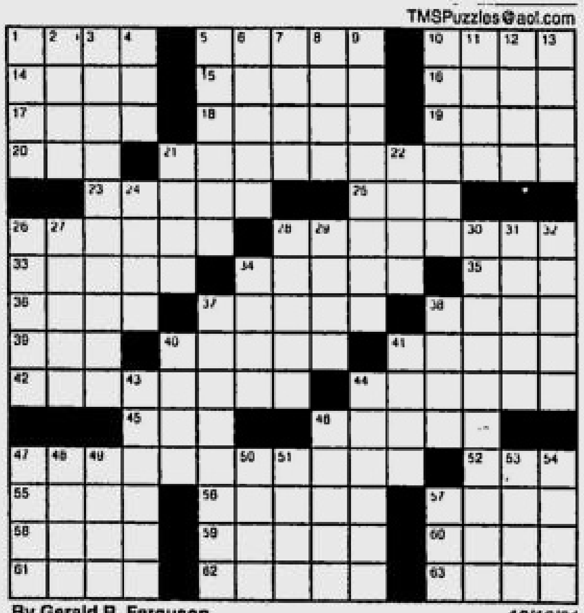
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't be too eager to part with your cash. Consider all the angles in any investment plan to avoid losses. A heated dispute with a friend may ensue if you try to change his or her mind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): People who are out of sorts and problems with paperwork or personal matters will keep you on your toes. Channel your energy into decorating or household chores that will clear up the clutter.

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive, outgoing and determined to make discoveries. You will try anything at least once, even if someone asks you to stop. Your determination will help you succeed.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR

10/16/01

ACROSS
1 Bonkers
5 Broken in
10 Ode or sonnet
14 God of love
15 Prof. Higgins' pupil
16 Thomas __ Edison
17 Debatable
18 Festive
19 Bridle strap
20 Tee preceder
21 Limbs-splayed, supine position
23 "The Waste Land" penner
25 Competed
26 Zsa Zsa and Eva
28 Chews the scenery
33 Employ again
34 Of bees
35 In what way?
36 Goals
37 Tic
38 Pocketed bread?
39 Swabbie's stick
40 Swiss city on the Rhine
41 Window sticker
42 Patronage
44 Cause bitter resentment
45 Albanian money
46 __ blanche
47 Georgia cager
52 Letters for a drill instructor
55 Lunchtime
56 In high dudgeon
57 Oxen pair
58 Alcove
59 Spouses
60 Small opening
61 Hardwood trees
62 Film critic Roger
63 Chopping tools

DOWN
1 Ready for the action
2 Famous cookie maker
3 Fear response
4 Actor Carney
5 Paces
6 In a state of readiness
7 Soggy ground
8 Pound of poetry
9 Waking fantasy
10 Argentine port
11 Cassini of fashion
12 Bad to the bone
13 Currycomb target
21 King's address
22 Attain
24 Forfeiture
26 Pasturage grass
27 Vowels
28 Iridescent gems
29 Shop grip
30 Varicella
31 Complete
32 Marshy lowland
34 Church area
37 Period in bed
38 Closely confined
40 Well in France
41 Dismal
43 Platform elements
44 Most unrefined
46 Bring brunch
47 Ms. Bancroft
48 Utensil
49 Weaving machine
50 United __ Emirates
51 Loathe
53 Concern
54 Fifths of a five
57 Health haven

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	L	A	S		C	O	A	L	S		A	R	T	S
S	A	N	E		A	U	D	I	T		S	A	R	A
W	I	D	E	S	P	R	E	A	D		S	P	U	N
A	N	I	M	A	L		P	R	E	M	I	S	E	S
N	E	E		F	E	S	T		N	O	S	H		
			P	E	S	O		B	I	T	T	E	R	S
K	A	T	E		S	P	O	U	S	E		E	Y	E
A	D	A	P	T		H	A	S		S	A	T	A	N
Y	A	K		R	A	I	T	T	S		I	S	N	T
S	M	E	T	A	N	A		L	I	E	D			
		C	H	I	T		L	E	N	T		A	B	E
S	N	O	W	T	I	R	E		G	N	A	R	L	S
L	A	V	A		W	E	T	B	L	A	N	K	E	T
A	V	E	R		A	N	G	I	E		T	I	N	E
P	E	R	T		R	O	O	T	S		E	N	D	S

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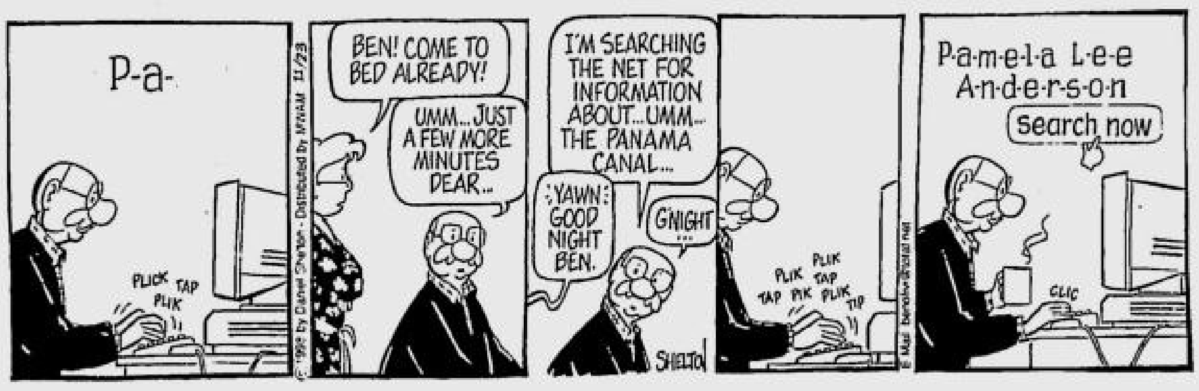
10/16/01

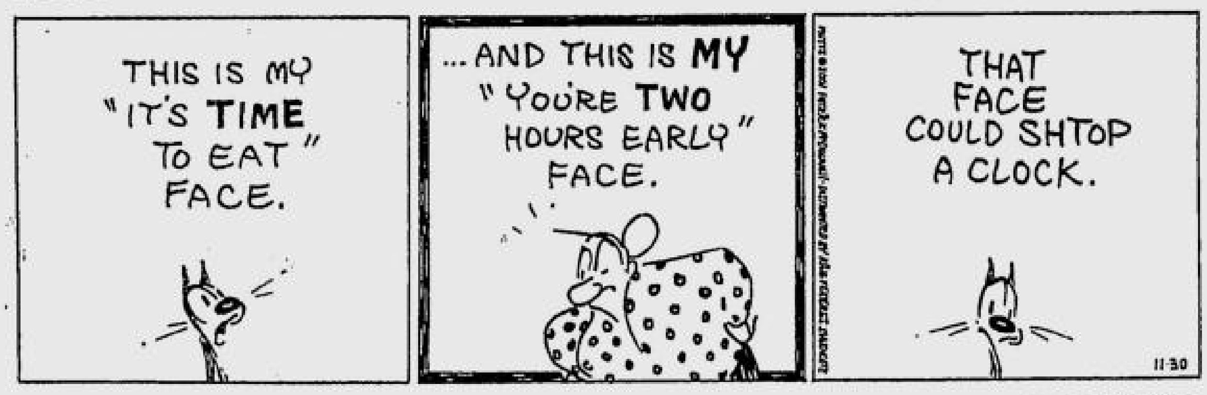
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


P-a-
PLICK TAP PLIK
BEN! COME TO BED ALREADY!
UMM...JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES DEAR...
I'M SEARCHING THE NET FOR INFORMATION ABOUT...UMM... THE PANAMA CANAL...
YAWN GOOD NIGHT BEN.
G'NIGHT ...
PLIK PLIK TAP TAP PIK PLIK TIP
P-a-m-e-l-a L-e-e A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n
Search now
CLIC
SHELTON
11/23

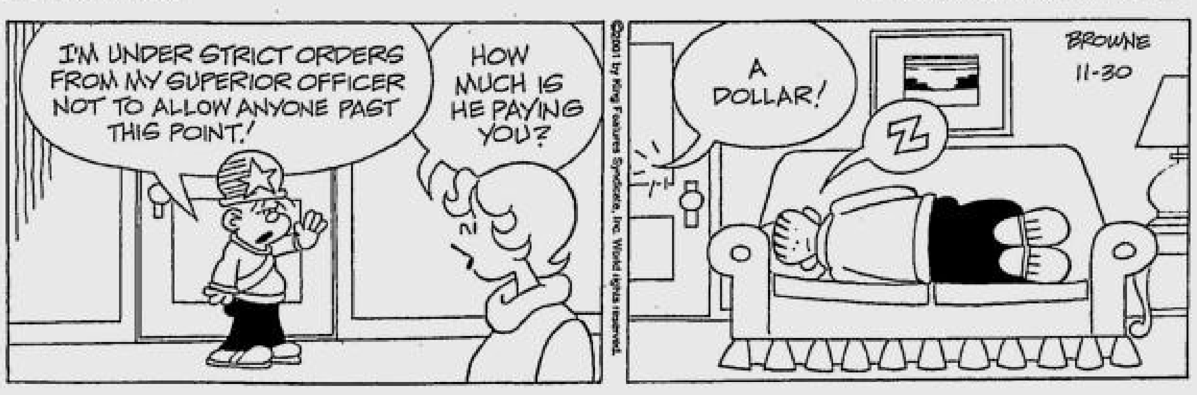
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THIS IS MY "IT'S TIME TO EAT" FACE.
...AND THIS IS MY "YOU'RE TWO HOURS EARLY" FACE.
THAT FACE COULD SHTOP A CLOCK.
11-30

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I'M UNDER STRICT ORDERS FROM MY SUPERIOR OFFICER NOT TO ALLOW ANYONE PAST THIS POINT!
HOW MUCH IS HE PAYING YOU?
A DOLLAR!
Z
BROWNE 11-30
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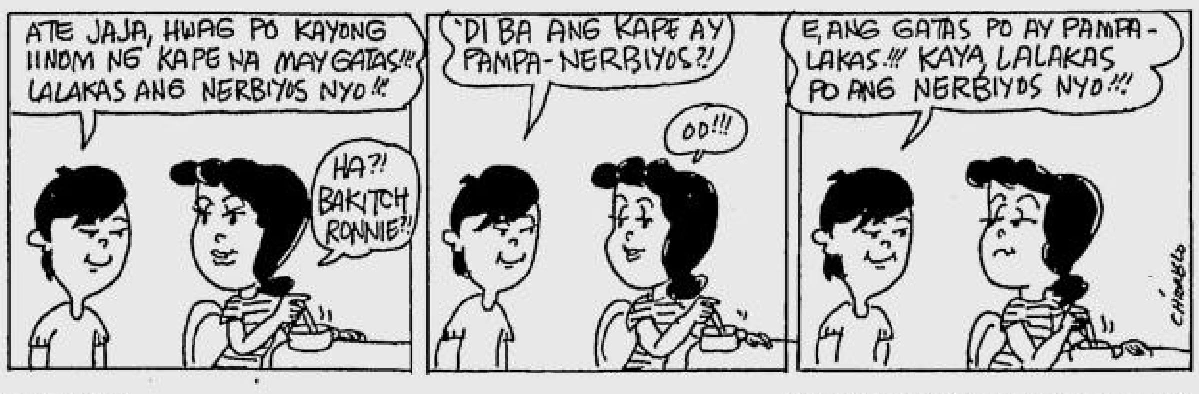
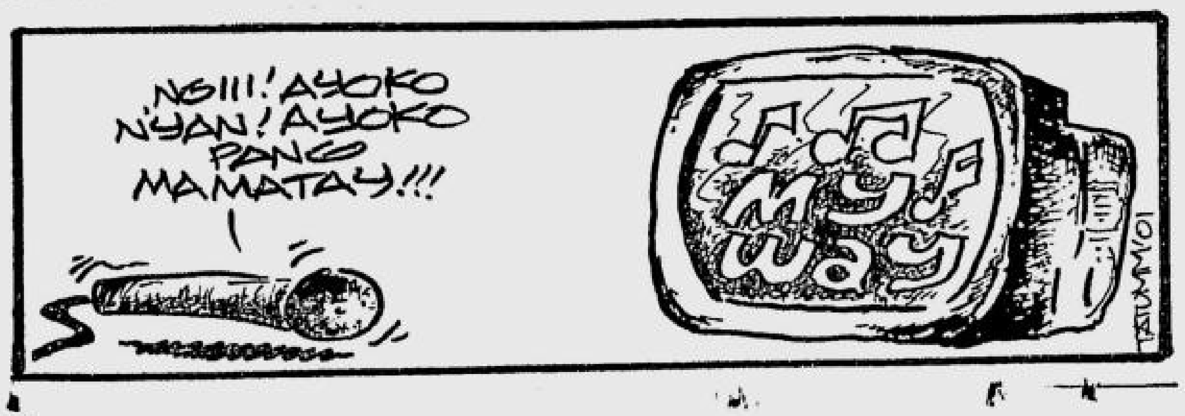
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ATE JAJA, HWAG PO KAYONG IINOM NG KAPE NA MAY GATAS!!! LALAKAS ANG NERBIYOS NYO!!!
HA?! BAKIT CH RONNIE?!
'DI BA ANG KAPE AY PAMPA-NERBIYOS?!
OO!!!
E, ANG GATAS PO AY PAMPA-LAKAS!!! KAYA LALAKAS PO ANG NERBIYOS NYO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


NGIII! AYOKO N'YAN! AYOKO PANG MAMATAY!!!
MY WAY
TATUM'01

Wireless prepay plan aims at teen market

(From page C8)

Verizon Wireless estimates that 11,000 kids turn 15 years old every day in the United States. That represents a large untapped market for the wireless industry.

Early plans targeted at low-income callers added many customers, but companies also found out quickly that prepay customers also turned over at a higher rate and spent less time on their phones.

Some of the problems lay within the company—per minute rates were expensive and it wasn't easy to sign up for additional minutes once the initial set of minutes were used up.

Still, regardless of those problems, the initial target audience simply did not use their phones on a regular basis and the companies' financial results suffered as a result.

Investors punished stocks when they thought companies were adding too many prepaid customers.

The jury's still out

But companies are turning to teens as an ideal audience for prepaid plans since they are likely to talk regularly on their cell phones and use other for-fee features such as text messaging.

Companies have begun offering more attractively priced plans on the premise that teens will use their phones even more frequently.

For while traditional prepaid plans can charge more than twice the amount that monthly subscribers pay for their minutes, Verizon Wireless's prepaid plan, for example, offers a comparable rate of 10 cents a minute during nights and weekends.

It offers text messaging—a popular pastime for teens that is a kind of instant e-mail via phones—for 5 cents a message.

More typical prepaid plans charge anywhere from 12 cents and 65 cents a minute, depending on where you call and who provides your service.

"Teens are more attractive (targets) because they are likely to get involved with value added services and they're more likely to get enticed," Adam Guy, senior wireless analyst of Strategis Group said.

While the jury is still out on the results and some firms such as VoiceStream and Qwest Communications International Inc. have shunned prepaid plans completely, Raney said Verizon Wireless was pleased with its results so far.

"Without a doubt, we can't get to the penetration levels that most people are anticipating, 70 (percent) to 80 percent, without evenly penetrating the prepaid market," Bill Turner, equity researcher for Bank One Investment Advisor, said. *Reuters*

US stores sell old toys, nostalgia

(From page C5)

It's going to be a "decent" year for the toy industry, said Chris Byrne, a toy industry consultant and columnist known as "The Toy Guy."

"The parents that we've talked to aren't exchanging as much amongst themselves, but are not pulling back on their kids."

Alethea Podmore, marketing director for the Seattle-based consultancy The Retail Group, said there is a trend toward nostalgic items and "toys that are non-violent for obvious reasons."

Nevertheless, retailers have reported brisk sales of G.I. Joe action figures, play guns and other military toys. Video games, also expected to be strong sellers, are another bastion of shoot-'em-up gameplaying. But Gary and Sandra Mathis, who visited relatives in Long Island recently from West Virginia, said they liked vintage toys like Hasbro's Lincoln Logs—simple wooden sets for building log cabins and forts, first marketed in 1916—because they stimulate a child's mind more than computer games.

"More than anything, old games create more imagination than the new stuff, where everything is handed to you," Sandra said.

Gary said he would buy their infant son Tonka trucks and a train set when he was old enough. "It's the stuff we had." *Reuters*

Why there can never be a world without pens

(From page C5)

Digest Asia SuperBrand for quality pens in a survey across the Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. Throughout history, Parker has helped transform the art of communicating and writing into a big and beautiful way.

Generations of people have told and retold stories with their plume, used pens to record history and write letters and literature, went to school with their trusty roller balls, conducted business with modern fountain pens tucked in their shirt pockets. The pen is almost a natural extension of our hand, a sort of human appendage. Technology may be in constant flux but the pen is here to stay. Are we glad some things just never change?

Canon

FREE BF!

Batteries and film not included.

Best Friend. Boy Friend. Best Family. However way you look at it, it's gonna be yours for FREE. All you need is to purchase a Canon S-series printer.

Available at: CANON MARKETING PHILIPPINES INC. MARVIN PLAZA BLDG., 2153 DON CHINO ROCES AVE., MAKATI CITY TEL. NO. 812-6047 / 892-6449 FAX: 812-0067 E-mail address: info_sales@canon.com.ph

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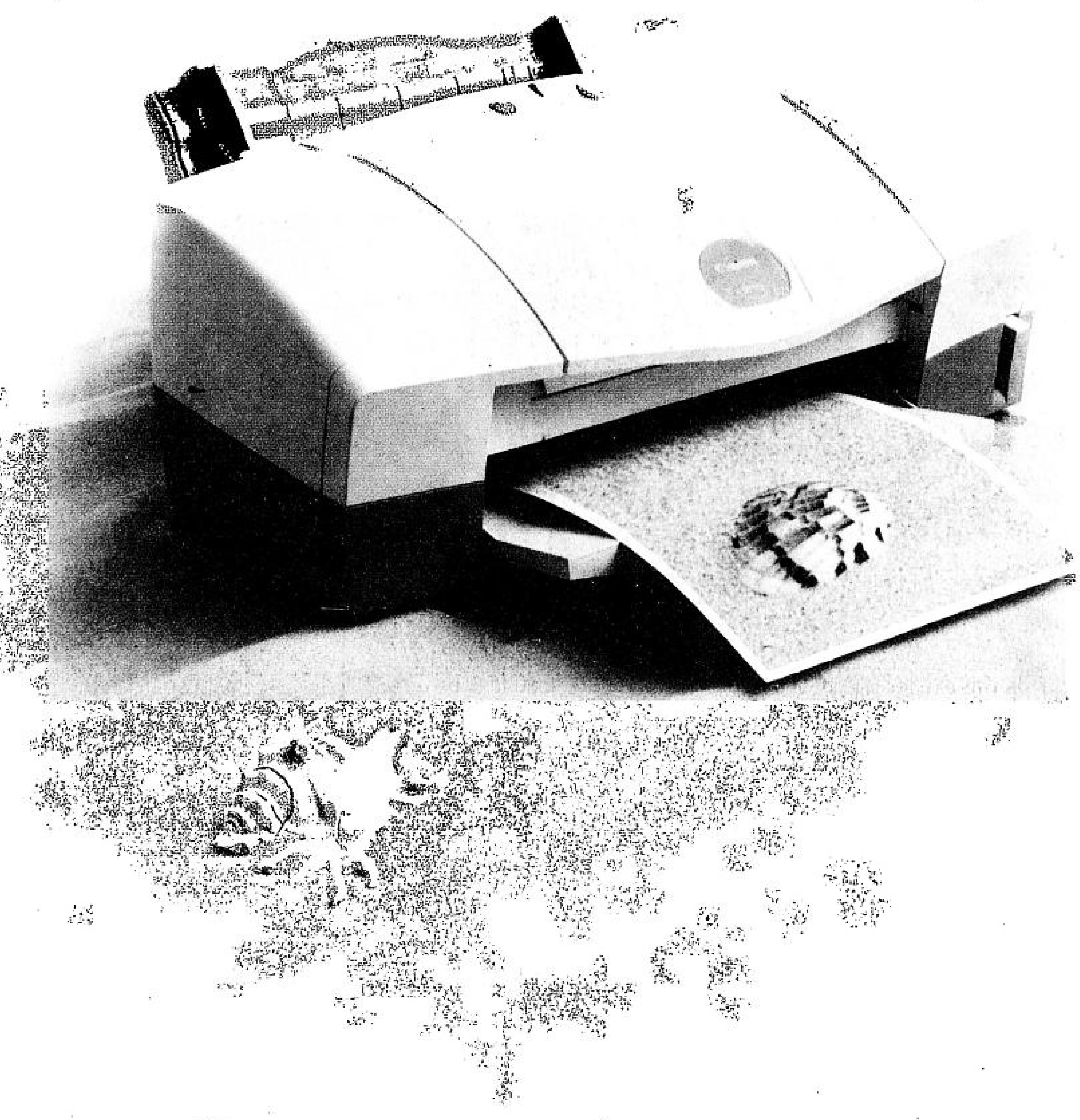
Promo Period: October 5 to December 5, 2001

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3392 Series of 2001



S STANDS FOR SELECTION

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2001

Wireless prepay plan aims at teen market

CHICAGO—Teenagers, it seems, are always on the phone, but it's still not enough for cell phone companies seeking to snag more young callers with prepaid plans in an effort to duplicate Europe's success here.

Wireless telephone companies are scrambling for ways to add subscribers, and they see talkative teens as their next big market. Nearly half of the US population own cell phones, but proportionally, far fewer American teens have them, compared with their counterparts in countries across Europe and in Japan.

"People who are 16 to 24 right now are our future. Those are the people that are going to grow with us," said Brenda Raney, a spokesperson for Verizon Wireless, the nation's No.1 wireless company.

While many on Wall Street turn a skeptical eye to prepaid wireless plans because of high customer turnover and low revenue per user, they may be the perfect way to attract teens.

A tainted image may be part of the problem. US prepaid plans must overcome the blot of early marketing efforts aimed at customers who didn't want to or were unable to commit to a monthly bill—a group that attracted lower-income workers, some immigrants, even the occasional drug-dealer.

By contrast, the mainstream European mobile phone market has turned overwhelmingly into a prepaid one, which analysts say has helped drive wider usage across the continent.

Up to 90 percent of new mobile customers in European markets are prepaid. Prepaid attracts 85 percent of Italian customers, 82 percent of Portugal, 47 percent in France and exactly half of Europe's biggest market—Germany.

Teens are the future

Verizon Wireless, for example, recently restructured its prepay program specifically to target teens.

The company, a joint venture between No. 1 US local phone company Verizon Communications and Vodafone Group Plc, views the plan as a way to eventually graduate young people into more profitable traditional subscription plans.

"Prepaid gives the parent the connection they want. It gives the young adult the independence they want. But there's still leverage there in terms of how much money is being spent," Raney said.

Other big companies are also wooing teen audiences.

Sprint PCS Group, the nation's No. 4 wireless firm, in October agreed to form a joint venture with Richard Branson's Virgin Group to offer prepaid wireless services to youth in the United States.

AT&T Wireless Services Inc. targets the youth as one of its main target audiences for prepaid plans.

Untapped market

According to a study by research firm McKinsey & Co. last year, only 15 percent of US teens aged 15 to 19 owned cell phones against 77 percent in Finland and 73 percent in Japan. Only 44 percent of US customers aged 20 to 29 owned cell phones compared with 87 percent in Finland and 76 percent in Japan.

WIRELESS/ C7

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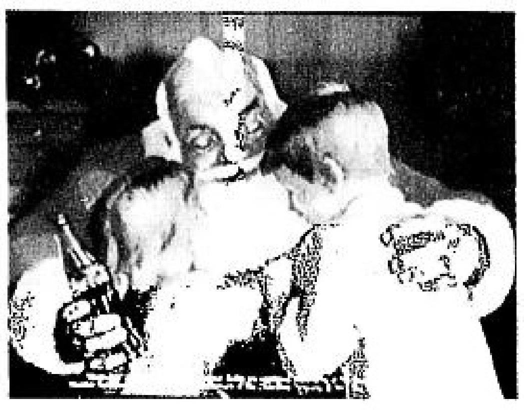
Promo period December 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002. See posters and flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4068, Series of 2001.



Traditional values in Christmas ad

WHAT do you get when you combine an Academy Award-winning animator with the world's most unmistakable icon of holiday cheer? A terrific Coca-Cola TV ad, that's what.

The soft drink company is capitalizing on its most enduring legacy to contemporary pop culture, Santa Claus, with an animated TV ad currently airing worldwide, including the Philippines.

The ad shows Santa as the familiar, pot-bellied gentleman with the billowing white beard and red suit—a popular image actually invented for Coca-Cola by an American artist named Haddon Sundblom.

Beginning in the 1920s and lasting for decades, Sundblom created a series of oil paintings for Coke's advertising campaigns. Santa Claus was then portrayed in vastly different ways in mainly European literature (including as a kidnapper of incorrigibly mischievous children).

Sundblom changed all that. After all, who wouldn't take to a jolly grandfather with twinkling eyes, a hearty laugh and a ready hug—more so if he's generous to a fault?

The new TV ad is based on a well-known work Sundblom painted in 1931, which shows Santa caught in the act of drinking a Coke by delighted kids in pajamas. The modern, animated version was created by Alexandre Petrov, who won an Oscar last year for his work in the animated short film, "The Old Man and the Sea."

In addition to the new global ad, Coca-Cola has also released in the Philippines two locally produced TV ads. The ads feature Miggs, a precocious child who joins in on various Christmas traditions, always with bright-eyed optimism.

From attempting to stay up late on Christmas Eve to meet Santa, to his enthusiastic assistance in entertaining the family's guests (even getting rewarded in the process), Miggs is, in fact, the child in us all—something only the magic of Christmas can bring out so well.

"Because of the challenging economic times, we all need to be refreshed by a child's innocent delight for the season," says Coca-Cola Philippines marketing director Nolet Puno. "This Christmas campaign combines our company's cherished Santa imagery with holiday traditions as seen through a child's eyes. The light-hearted and optimistic approach will surely connect with our consumers during the holidays."

Business opportunities talk set

BUSINESS opportunities await budding business entrepreneurs and investors as the 1st Business Start-Ups Expo 2001 opens at the Megatrade Halls 2 and 3, SM Megamall today.

A major highlight of the 3-day event is the variety of seminars for free. Seminars on food and restaurant management, information technology, manufacturing, and other types of business opportunities will be discussed.

Speakers invited to the event are representatives from government, specifically the Department of Trade and Industry, and private entities like the Manila Jaycees, FranLink Asia, AccessCapital, Genetic Computer Institute, Entrepreneur Magazine, Chikka.com among others.

Organizing this major business event is Premier Events Plus Group Inc.

The expo is a showcase of different business options open for visitors who wish to either get into a new business venture or expand their existing businesses. There will be booths offering distributorship, networking, franchising or simply investing.

"What the expo is, is a one-stop shop for all entrepreneurial needs. In other words, we see this expo as a way to empower people to invest wisely or make their money work for them with viable business opportunities available," Joey Pascual, president of Premier Events Plus, said. "The whole idea is to assist the small businessmen or would-be entrepreneurs to be bigger businessmen by showing them what opportunities are available for their hard-earned investments," he continued.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Trend Spotting

MONOCHROMATIC. Lucy wears a magenta shirt and a red diamond-printed skirt.

Femmes of niceness

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
FASHION PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL COMPOSITION BY BOBOT MERU
LOCATION PHOTOS BY BENGY TODA III
CONCEPT AND PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ANTONIO SALAC SANTOS

Character is as salable as looks

HARPER'S & Queen's Trends section declares that "consideration for others, good manners and virtue are right now, the very height of fashion." And it cites "niceness" as a "valuable commodity."

Catching that drift, Ben Chan, CEO and creative director of Suyen Corporation, the company that launched Bench, Herbench and Human, sensibly chose Lucy Torres-Gomez and Assunta da Rossi as image models of Herbench and its undergarment line, respectively.

Chan knows that character is as salable as looks. Assunta and Lucy could remind us of values that we've taken for granted such as being on time for appointments and being good listeners.

When Assunta and her Filipina mother Nenita Schiavone arrived 30 minutes late for the interview and pictorial, the latter apologized profusely, saying they were extremely worried about being late.

Later, as she sat in front of the makeup mirror, Assunta told INQUIRER, "I'm usually on time. I never give people headaches. In shoots, I arrive early. Sometimes my co-stars arrive two to three hours later. I hate the wait. But it's better for me to wait for them rather than having people wait for me."

This Filipina-Italian is no prima donna, rather a "primmer donna," as coined by H&Q, not in the literal sense.

It has been de rigueur for young actresses to reinvent themselves by doing cheesecake stuff. Like her predecessors who got nowhere doing milk-and-toast roles, Assunta had to go the way of the screen siren. And, she has no regrets. She got more attention.

"Before, it was nothing. *Deadma sila.* I gained

FEMMES/p.D8

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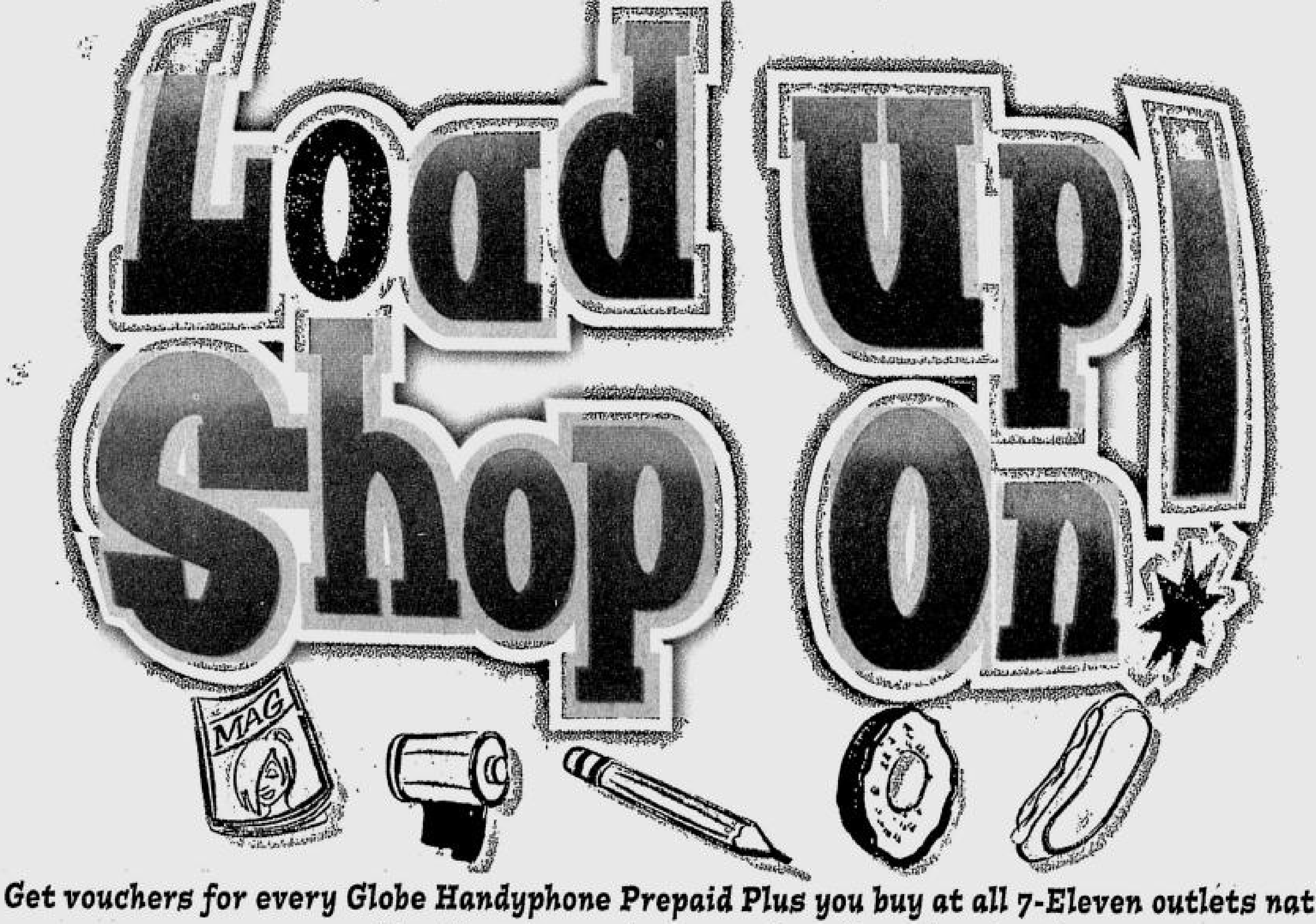

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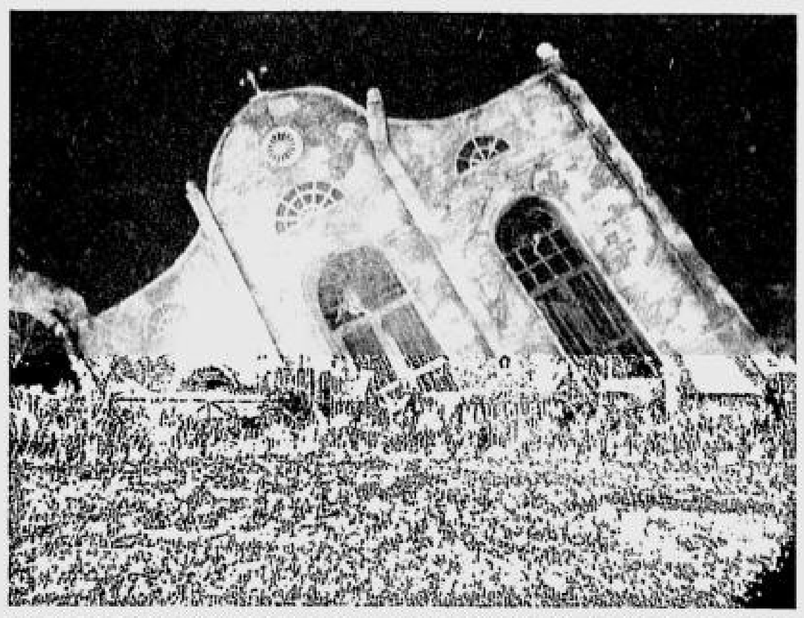
Globe HANDYPHONE Prepaid Plus

Per DTI-NCR Permit No: 3824 Series of 2001

Carnival showcases traditional Pinoy ways of celebrating Christmas


THE MAUSOLEO is one of the main attractions at Boom na Boom

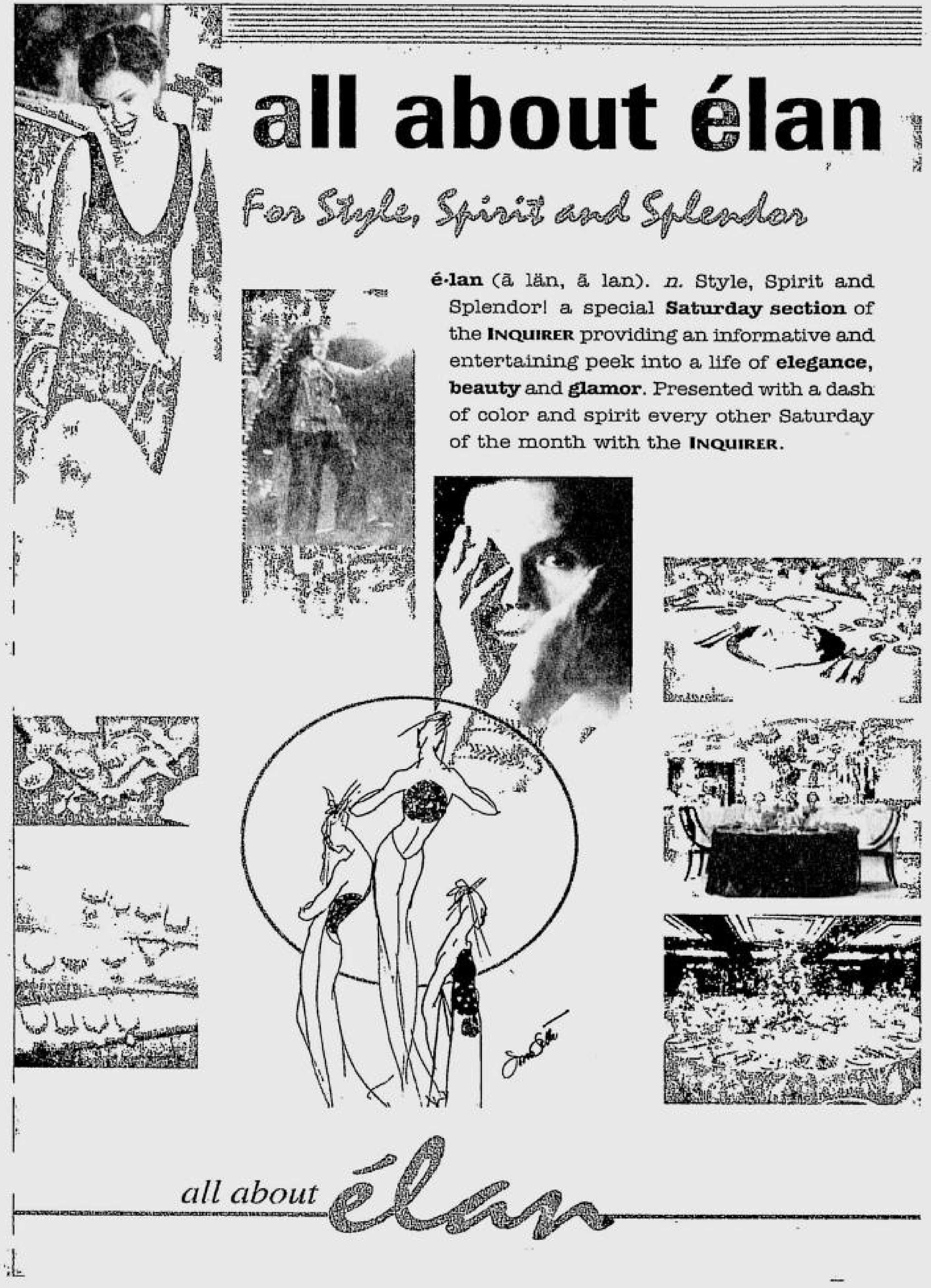
THE HOLIDAY spirit is in the air and timeless traditions once again come into play. Families get together for grand reunions and partake of the *noche buena* feast come Christmas Eve. *Ninongs* and *ninangs* prepare gifts or *aguinaldos* for their *inaanaks* while everybody is looking forward to the nine-day dawn masses or *simbang gabi*.

For many families, Christmas is also a time to visit carnivals and amusement parks.

For more than a decade, Boom na Boom Carnival has made holiday carnivals a Filipino tradition. It has provided fun and entertainment to the public. This year, the longest-running carnival will open its doors today at the CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Guest of honor will be Mayor Peewee Trinidad of Pasay City, who will be joined by teenage stars Camille Prats, Biboy Ramirez and the 19 finalists of Bb. Pasay City beauty pageant. A free concert featuring top local band Rivermaya will be held after the opening rites at 7 p.m.

Some of the favorite imported rides at Boom na Boom are the Boomerang Roller Coaster, Flying Carpet, Gravitron, Vortex, the Cable Car, Conquistador and horror trains. These rides have been accredited by the International Amusement Parks Association of the United States and have been routinely checked by foreign consultants and engineers to ensure visitors of comfortable rides. A ride-all-you-can promo is also offered to carnival visitors from Nov. 30 to Dec. 21, which will give them the chance to enjoy more than 40 rides, over and over again, for only P150 including the carnival entrance.

New carnival attractions include the Indian Run, Ball Pool, and Mausoleo walk-in horror house. Boom na Boom houses the widest range of thrill rides and attractions such as the Zoo-Go-Round, Kiddie Dino, Kiddie Calesa and Royal Carousel. Several bazaars and food chains can also be found within the carnival area for the convenience of visitors. Some of the special events that await guests are the Hataw Sayaw 2001 Dance Showdown, Himig-Sikan Amateur Singing Competition, Tsikiting Galing, Gimik Nights, Magic Shows, Ati-Atihan Exhibition and Dragon Dance.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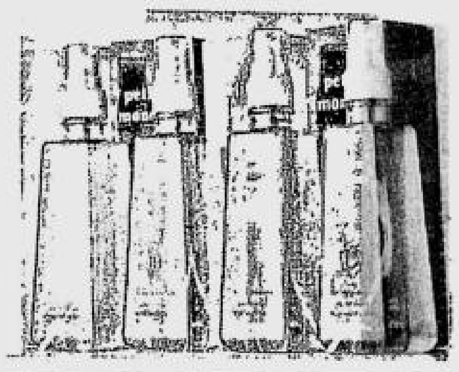

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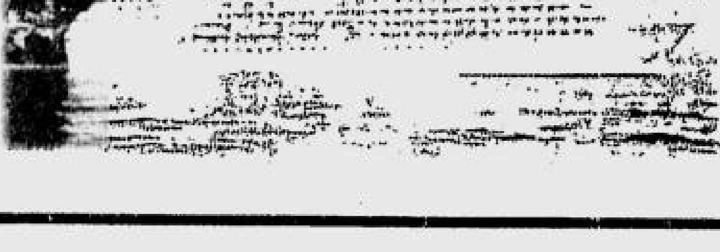

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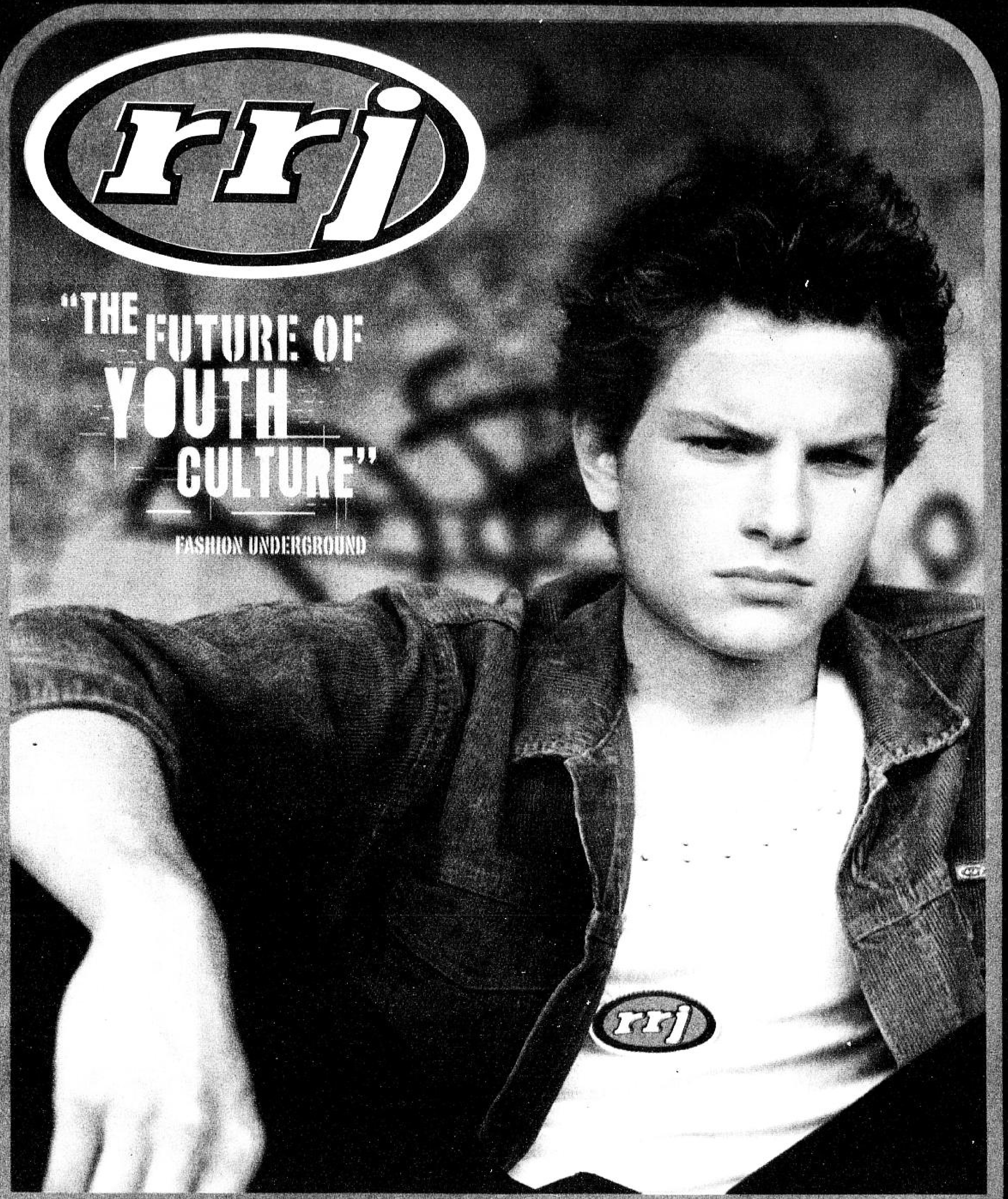
Exhibit features electronics and IT products

TO CELEBRATE the opening of its fifth branch, AVSurfer is holding an exhibit at the Activity Area of Ayala Center Cebu Dec. 1-5 titled "Forging a Digital Link." The exhibit will showcase a variety of consumer electronics, IT products, computers and peripherals.

AVSurfer, the country's only audio video and IT convergence store, opens on the third level of Ayala Center Cebu on the same day.

Gamers are invited to participate in the Counter-strike Challenge, a tournament that will be held at the store on Dec. 1-2. Participants may register in groups of five at the exhibit area with a registration fee of P50. A grand prize of P5,000 awaits winners.

AV Surfer is Avid Sales Corp.'s second store in Cebu. Avid is an electronics retail chain with 15 branches including Avid Sony Shop, AVSurfer, Aiwa Showroom, Beyond and Best Brands.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CWC'S committee is composed of president Lulu Castaneda, chair Nikki Valerio, Miml Valerio, Pilina Rocha, Shirley Uy, Pilie Aquino, Lita Gelano, Linda Villadelgado, Fanny Blanco, Karen Macasaet, Carmen Carag, Nene Leonor and Myrna Borromeo.

CWC features fashion accessories in fund-raiser

THE CATHOLIC Women's Club, with the Ayala Land Inc. and Bea Zobel, a CWC member, is organizing "clothes for a cause" as its last fund-raising activity for the year. It will be held at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, today, and on Dec. 1 and 2, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Slightly used clothes, bags, belts, shoes and accessories donated by celebrities, famous personalities, CWC members and friends will be sold at very reasonable prices.

Proceeds will be used to finance the final stage of the construction of CWC's 3rd Pavilion for the use of children of Elsie Gaches Village.

On sale will be a limited edition glass etching titled "El Musiko," especially made by National Artist Arturo Luz for CWC's 80th anniversary, chaired by Bambi Harper.

Also on sale will be the limited edition plate, "Mother & Child" series, featuring this year's artist Bencab with his "Mag-ina," chaired by Joey Sobrepeña and Linda Villadelgado.

A bazaar will also be held with several concessionaires selling various products.

Performing arts to promote peace

VOICE of Manila Choral Group

THE VOICE of Manila and AV1 Media will present "Bosesan: Sounds and Visions for a Better World (A Concert for Peace)" on Dec. 20 at the RCBC Plaza's Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium.

With the theme "We Are One, One World, One Family," this multimedia event aims to promote peace, unity, harmony, respect and appreciation of life in spite of our varied cultures and beliefs through an array of choice choral music and video performances.

This concert will feature some of the country's premiere choral groups—Chorus Paulinus, Napocor Chorale, Philippine Madrigal Singers, Philippine Women's University Chorale and the Voice of Manila.

The concert will also feature alumni dancers from the Philippine High School for the Arts, a traditional poet from Bulacan, ethnic instrumentalists from the Pinikpikan group, the Grace Nono Band and Holy Angels Children's Choir (who will do a sign language choral performance).

The concert will feature edited video footages during each choral/dance performance.

"Bosesan," the title of the concert is a term in the vernacular (from the root word *boses*), a skill not taught in music schools but acquired and practiced only by top caliber choral groups and ensembles as a result of years and years of singing together. Bosesan is the endless search for true harmony in a choral group, it is the long and exhausting yet a fruitful way of attaining perfect blending in spite of the varied timbres of each soprano, alto, tenor and bass voices. It is the perfect understanding between sound, beat, rhythm, dynamics and all other parameters of music put together. In the end, it is a way of achieving oneness by respecting each color of voice, a conduit of attaining unity in perfect rhythm and tranquility, it is our guide to appreciate music, appreciate life, it is peace in our hearts and in the world.

AAI's 'Closer' moves to CCP

PATRICK Marber's controversial and highly acclaimed play "Closer" will move to the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute on its opening weekend (today and tomorrow) due to the fire that destroyed its original venue, The Republic of Malate.

All paid tickets will be honored at the new venue. Show time is at 8 p.m.

The play stars Aliw awardee Pinky Amador and Bart Guingona together with Ana Abad-Santos and Lee Robin Salazar. "Closer" won numerous awards on both sides of the Atlantic at its original staging. ATT's production marks its Philippine premiere.

"Closer" is an adult dark comedy about desire, commitment, love and passion in a high-tech impersonal world where there are countless avenues for intimacy but very little ways to get closer. The play opens with the blossoming of a relationship between an obituary writer (Lee Robin Salazar) and a stripper (Ana Abad Santos), a relationship that is rudely interrupted when a photographer (Pinky Amador) seduces the writer.

In the meantime, a dermatologist (Bart Guingona) obsesses over the photographer and later finds himself in the arms of the stripper. The round robin of relationships exposes each character's innate desires, foibles and contradictions. Bart Guingona also handles the directorial chores.

Tickets are available at National Bookstores, Ticketworld and at AAI at 536-5844.

Love yourself to be happy

VERNON Tapalla:

VERNON Tapalla does not drink coffee, but he appreciates and feeds on the dynamic flow generated by the crowd enjoying a caffeine fix.

As many people know, the Tapalla name has been synonymous with image enhancement, personality development, speech and writing. Tapalla first joined the family business, the WCT Academe of Speech and Personality, before setting up his own shop in 1996. Since then, he has put up three branches in Makati, Alabang and Quezon City, and has more than 100 corporate clients, among others.

In an increasingly competitive job market, people seek out his services to improve the way they talk, walk and carry themselves to get ahead of the competition.

"There is a reason we go through the mistakes we have to go through, and that is to learn from them. Only after that can we find peace." He does not pretend to be perfect. In fact, he took a circuitous path to find his niche. He was a stockbroker and ramp and commercial model before becoming a teacher.

He came back to the Philippines after working with Merill Lynch in the early '90s. His good looks and height made him a fixture in the local fashion scene. The two diverse careers helped to form his philosophy. He developed the sensibility and practicality of the businessman from being a stockbroker, while modeling gave him the panache and élan to establish his own distinct style and look.

As an instructor, Tapalla has received praises from corporations like WG&A, Aboitiz Transportation Systems, Philippine Fuji Xerox, as well as government agencies such as the Department of Trade and Industry, the Commission on Audit, and the Development Bank of the Philippines.

What have the agencies and firms learned from Tapalla? Take the question of how to achieve wealth.

He says that first you have to want it. "It has to be a desire, a very strong desire to acquire it. Saying to yourself, 'There is a lot of money out there, and mine has my name stamped on it!' will help a lot."

Second, be specific. We cannot be vague. "Saying 'I want plenty of money' is no good. It will get you nowhere. Dr. Phil McGraw said, 'You have to name it, to claim it!' Saying 'I want P100 million' is better because the goal becomes clearer," he adds.

Third, accept the fact that only you can achieve your goal. Some may help but no one will ever create and sustain wealth for you but yourself. "Ask yourself: What am I good at? What is my skill? What can I offer the world?

Fourth, be frugal, frugal, frugal. "You can never achieve material wealth if you spend more than you make. The key is to live below your means."

And how does one become happy?

The first thing to do, Tapalla says, is to love yourself first. "We have been taught to love others before ourselves. [But] if you have no love for yourself to begin with, you cannot give or receive it because you have nothing to give. You don't even know what it is. Loving yourself is the single most powerful step you can take to achieve inner power and infinite, lifelong happiness."

Vernon Tapalla runs Communications Specialists and The Writing Institute. He also conducts training for various companies nationwide. Call Tess or Angela at 845-0886, 753-1084, 850-4756 to 57

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Eye gel banishes dark circles

A 24-HOUR intensive anti-aging product has been formulated for the delicate area surrounding the eyes. La Prairie's Age Management Stimulus Complex Eyes diminishes even the most stubborn fine dry lines and under-eye discoloration—conditions that add years to a woman's face.

The vigorous de-aging action is the result of pure bioactive Retinol, Vitamin K and La Prairie's exclusive Cellular Complex that form a strategic alliance to repair existing damage, firm and brighten the skin and prevent further signs of aging.

Applied every night, Age Management Stimulus Complex Eyes produces visible results in just 30 days:

- Dramatic reduction of deep lines and wrinkles due to optimum levels of encapsulated Retinol, which stimulate the production of collagen and elastin to enhance the skin's firmness and smoothness.
- Under-eye circles and discoloration are diminished by Vitamin K, which boosts capillary action and improves drainage.
- Skin appears brighter and fresher with a young, healthy glow.

Since pure Retinol and Vitamin K are sensitive to light and can easily lose their strength upon exposure, protection is extremely important.

With a patented Microsponge technology, La Prairie has combined these two key components into a sophisticated delivery system that conserves their strength and stability and releases them gradually and at controlled levels over a 10-hour period. The carefully regulated release of the right amounts of active ingredients throughout the night ensures prolonged effectiveness and greatly reduces the possibility of irritation to the skin.

Retinol also benefits from the presence of patented energy activator Co-Enzyme Q10, which boosts its wrinkle-reducing action. Co-Enzyme Q10 also revives the activity of the antioxidant Vitamin E, which fights free radicals. Other important supporting ingredients include soothing chamomile-derivative Alpha Bisabolol and La Prairie's exclusive Cellular Complex, which moisturizes, energizes, nourishes and reinforces the skin's natural functions.

At Rustan's Makati, the eye formulas are top sellers.

Recover the youthful contours of your face

LANCÔME'S Renergie Contour Lift contains a patented lifting agent that tones both face and neck up to 24 hours. The Lipo Drainage agents promote drainage of any excess liquid that weighs down and thickens the features.

As we age the support network below the dermo-epidermal junction weakens, provoking a slackening of the cutaneous tissue and a loss of firmness. The result of a major technological advancement, the Dermo Cohésion Complex strengthens the support network to firm up the skin.

In two weeks, the features are lighter. In four weeks, the skin and neck are visibly firmer.

Dior
NOAGE
ESSENTIEL
Christian Dior

Fight premature ageing

EXTERNAL factors cause more than 70 percent of premature aging. The process starts with telomeres, located in the extremities of our chromosomes. They protect the vital information contained within the cell.

Every time cell division occurs, the telomeres become a little shorter because the telomerase, a natural enzyme that maintains its length, gradually becomes less active.

When the telomerase is maintained at an optimum level of natural activity, cell life expectancy is maximized.

The Christian Dior Research Center's Molecular Biology Laboratory achieved a breakthrough recently when it discovered an agent called the optitelomerase that enables the telomerase to optimize cell life. The botanically derived oraposide fights the lipidic peroxidation of the plasma membranes, the vital barriers of our cells. A natural molecule, ergothionein, protects the cytpolasm by specifically neutralizing cytoplasmic free radicals.

The technology comes in a patented formula Ageproof Complex, which targets premature skin. It is packaged as No Age, which is supposed to plump up the intercellular spaces of the stratum corneum, leaving the skin looking fresher and smoother. It uses bio-mimesis to facilitate a smooth glide upon application.

Eyes that smolder

THE YSL woman, as defined by Tom Ford on the runway, balances romance with sleek sensuality. Yves Saint Laurent new products for Fall/Winter achieve the same effect.

Lips, eyes and nails are shaded with tones that range from the palest of nudes to shimmering golds, bronzes and browns. With eyes becoming the focus, shadow and eyeliner define a strong, linear shape.

Eyebrows are contoured and shaded while lips are pale, lightly touched with gold-tinged color that is close to the natural shade. Blush is used to sculpt the contours of the face.

VICTOR Ortega of Emphasis Salon shows how to use the YSL products on model Michelle Schulte.

SMOLDERING. Dancer-thespian Maritoni Rufino-Tordesillas

MAKEUP BY ROCKY GIMENEZ OF COCOY SALON

Legendary makeup founder dies

MARY Kay Ash, a legendary entrepreneur who built one of the world's leading cosmetic companies, passed away recently at her home in Dallas. Ash's success opened doors of opportunity for millions of women by offering them unlimited potential for financial independence, career advancement and personal fulfillment.

Investing her life savings of $5,000, she launched her dream company in Dallas in 1963. Mary Kay Inc. today generates more than $2.4 billion in annual sales at the retail level and boasts an independent sales force of more than 850,000 women in 37 countries on five continents.

Pamper your nails

TIPS 'n Toes Nail Salon, a specialty nail salon, is the place to go for perfect nail, hand and feet care.

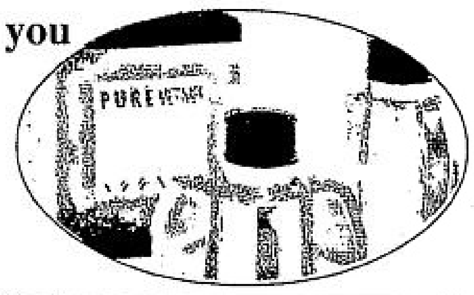
The company's expert nail technicians understand that the stresses of daily living and our harsh environments affect the way we feel and they can wreak havoc on the body. Tips 'n Toes offer a vast range of services.

Among others, it offers hot oil manicure, the hand paraffin treatment, decorative nail art, henna tattoos, back and body massages and scrubs, body waxing and lots more.

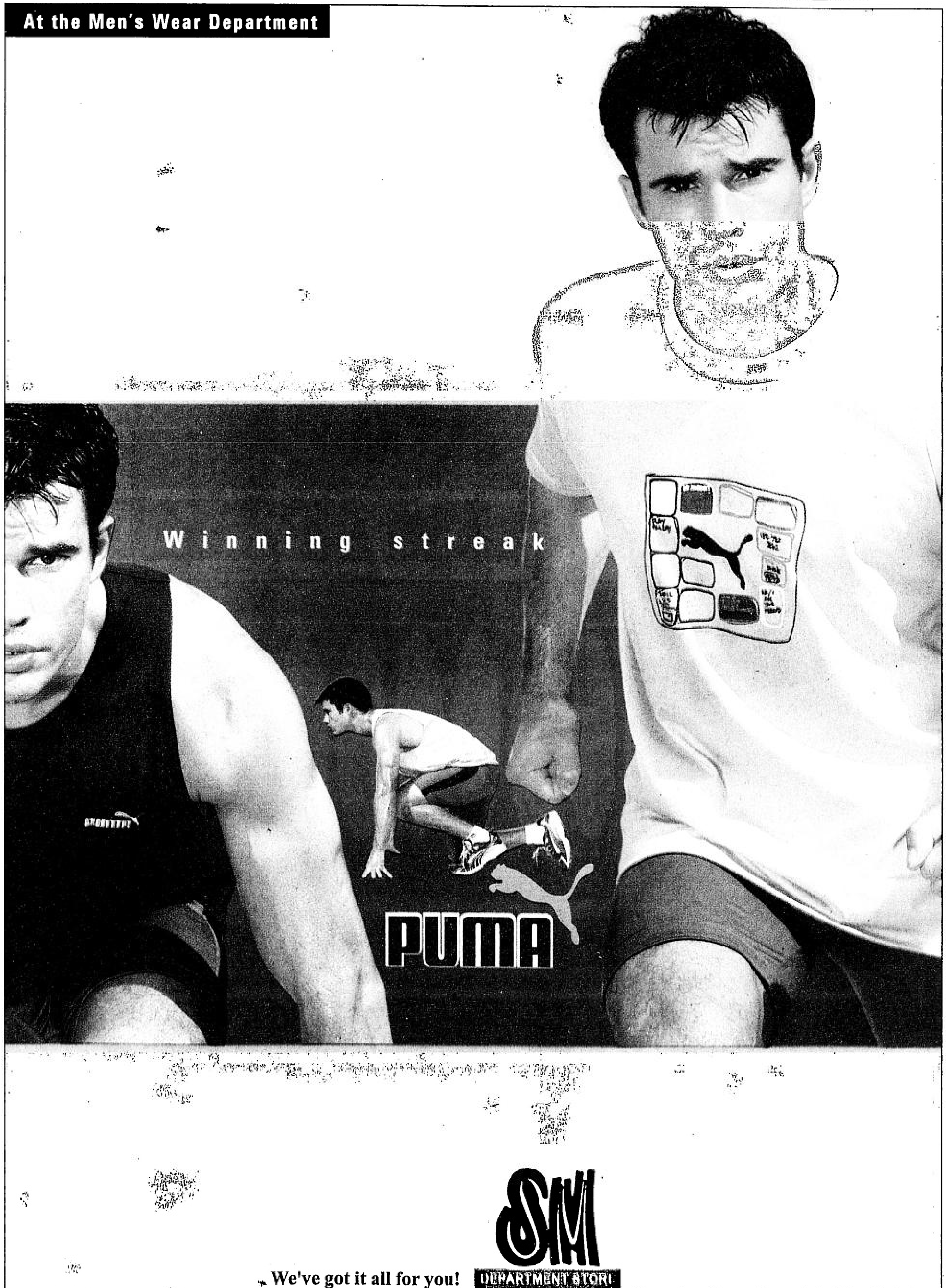
Tips 'n Toes is at the 5/L, Building A of SM Megamall and at #306 Tomas Morato corner Scout Madrinan, QC. Tips 'n Toes is open for franchise, call Jennifer Angeles at 0917-5370417 or at 635-9824.

Scents that bring out the best in you

FOR LORIS Azzaro, a perfume changes one's smell, mood and personality in the same way as a garment transforms a person. What's important is to choose the right one. He captures the scents of the Mediterranean in Couture, the fragrance of a woman in the fullest sense of the word, sensual and elegant; and Pour Homme, which he likens to a dashing young man who has celebrated his 20th birthday in style.



At the Men's Wear Department



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Modeling more than just clothes

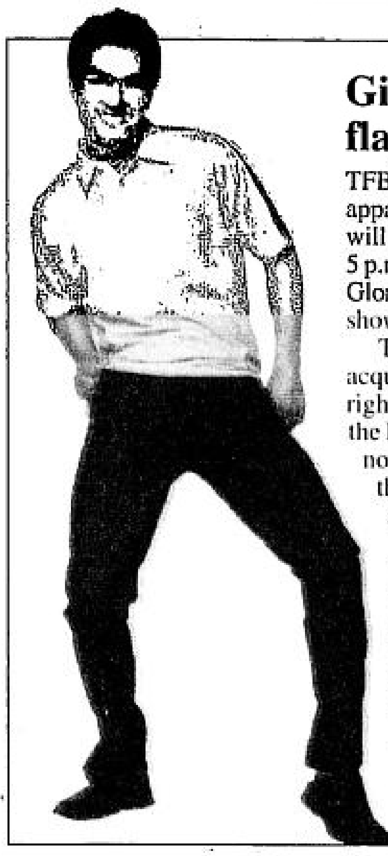
STEPHANIE Zubiri

THERE is more to Bayo girls than just selling clothes, according to Nicole Hernandez and Stephanie Zubiri, both former image models of the young women's fashion label.

"They are all role models with whom a lot of teenagers and even adults can look up to," Hernandez says. "All of them radiate beauty from the outside and, most importantly, from within." As for Bayo's clothes, "The clothes are easy to wear—good quality, great designs," says Zubiri. "They don't follow trends. They stick to the basics, which is good."

Hernandez adds, "They are simple, fun and classic in design. And very wearable."

NICOLE Hernandez

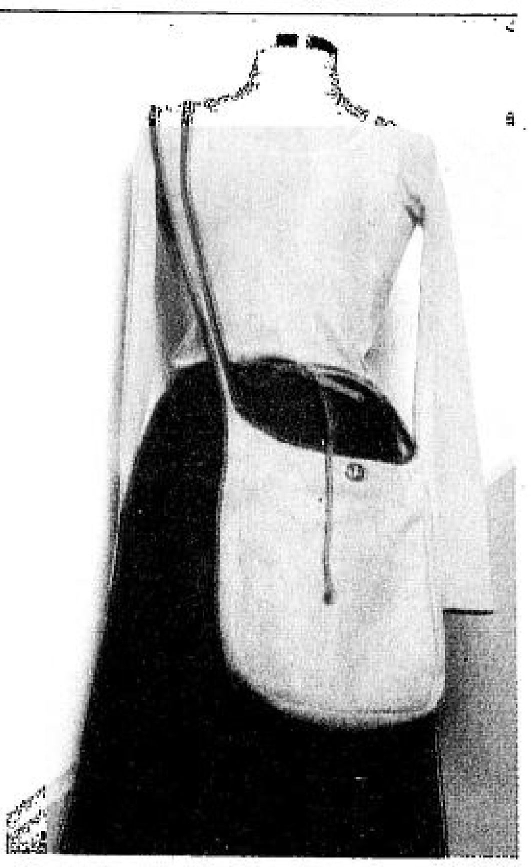


Giordano opens flagship store

TFB Inc., one of the largest specialty apparel corporations in the Philippines, will open the biggest Giordano store at 5 p.m., Dec. 1 on the ground floor of Glorietta 4 in Makati City. A fashion show will follow the inauguration.

The shop, the Concept Store, acquired the exclusive distribution rights to retail Giordano products in the Philippines in November 1989. It now operates 37 shops throughout the country with three subfranchises.

From a relatively unknown brand, Giordano has grown into a household name in the Philippines with a wide array of merchandise for basic everyday wear. This year Giordano looks back to the '80s with a knits line offering glitter and glam prints with rhinestones and stud accessories on tees.



Store sells only the real thing

INSTYLE Boutique, the retail arm of Instyle Apparel Inc., aims to be a unique multiline store carrying such American brands as Gap, Banana Republic and Old Navy.

Owned in part by the Tesoro family, the store sells genuine Gap apparel. In its capacity as distributor of the Gap brands in the Philippines, Instyle supplies the Gap, Old Navy and Banana Republic apparel to Rustan's.

Instyle also has the leather belt line of Accessorio and is working on bringing more foreign brands from the US and elsewhere.

The company will soon open a shop at the Duty-Free Philippines Mall.

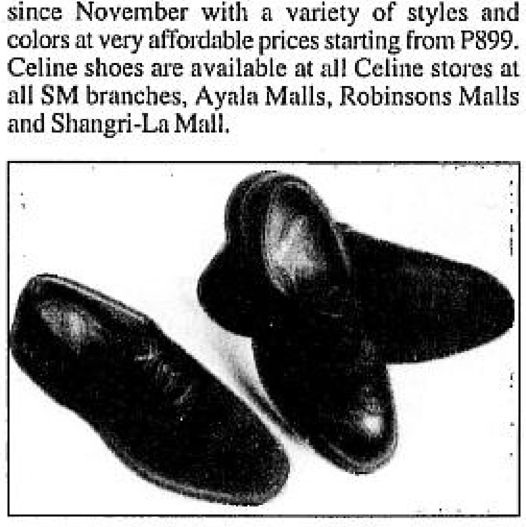
Redefining men's fashion

TOPMAN, the exclusive men's line of Topshop specialty store, spices up men's fashion with quality London jeans, knitwear, leisurewear, shirts, pants and trousers. The store also offers accessories such as eyewear, caps and belts. Also available are jackets, jerseys and Bloc and Tackle's line of underwear.

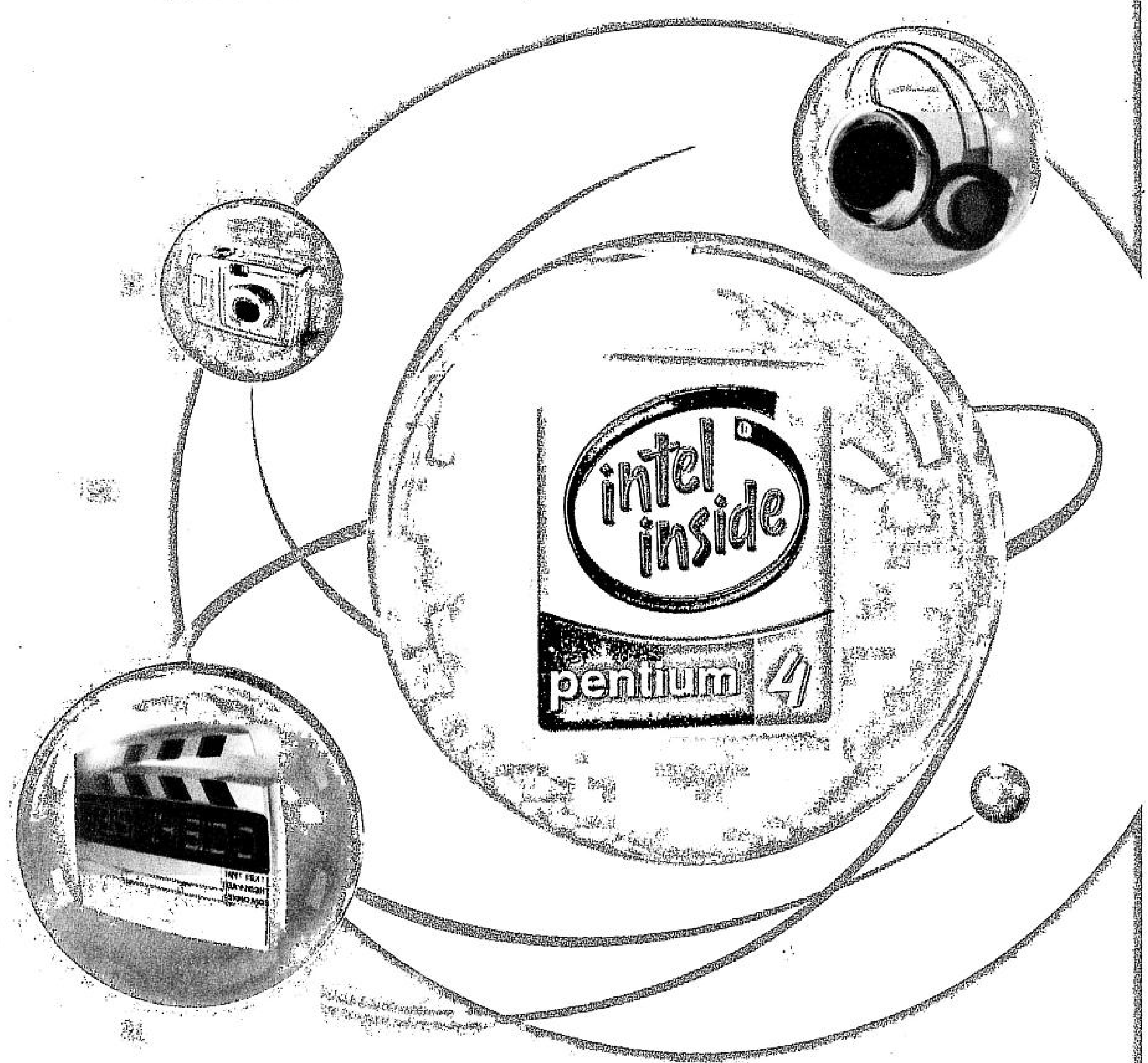
Topman is located at Topshop store, Level 2, Padre Faura wing, Robinsons Place Manila.

All set for Christmas

CELINE is all set to fill everyone's "wish list." It has been ready with its holiday shoe collection since November with a variety of styles and colors at very affordable prices starting from P899. Celine shoes are available at all Celine stores at all SM branches, Ayala Malls, Robinsons Malls and Shangri-La Mall.



ROCKPORT'S DRESS SANDALS. Pamper your delicate feet with sleek and comfy dress sandals from Rockport, the Snapdragon and Iris. An example of form and function, each pair comes with ribbed lacquer outsole to reduce foot and leg fatigue and latex foam foot bed to absorb shock and provide snug cushioning. Check out the Rock-port branch nearest you for your color of choice. Snapdragons come in conservative black nappa and black patent while the Iris pairs come in elegant pewter.



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December 4 – 7, 2001

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Distinctly rich, creamier ice cream

BY JOEL V. NIGOS

JUST what really makes a real ice cream?

Is it the flavor? Is it the distinctly rich and creamier taste? Or the premium quality of the ice cream as proven by its conformity with world-class standards in ice cream manufacturing process?

Does the ice cream have to suit the discriminating taste of classy housewives who buy only the best for their family when it comes to food and dessert? Or do people have to be familiar with it because the brand is already a household name or world-renowned?

Or so we may ask, is there an ice cream available in the market today that all have these qualities? What do we really want our ice cream to be?

Swiss Miss, a known and trusted brand in the hot chocolate drink, introduced a year ago its own line of ice cream.

Swiss Miss is the only ice cream in the market today that is made from 100-percent full cream milk. Full cream milk, as compared to fat substitute being used by other brands, enhances the flavor of the ice cream, preserving its natural taste. The use of full cream milk also makes the Swiss Miss ice cream smooth, distinctly rich and creamier in taste. It's just right sweetness makes eating the ice cream truly engaging.

Mostly made from the finest imported ingredients like Swiss cocoa powder, full cream milk, chocolate chips, real nuts and fruit chunks, Swiss Miss is also highly acceptable and significantly preferred versus the market leader based on market research conducted among target market.

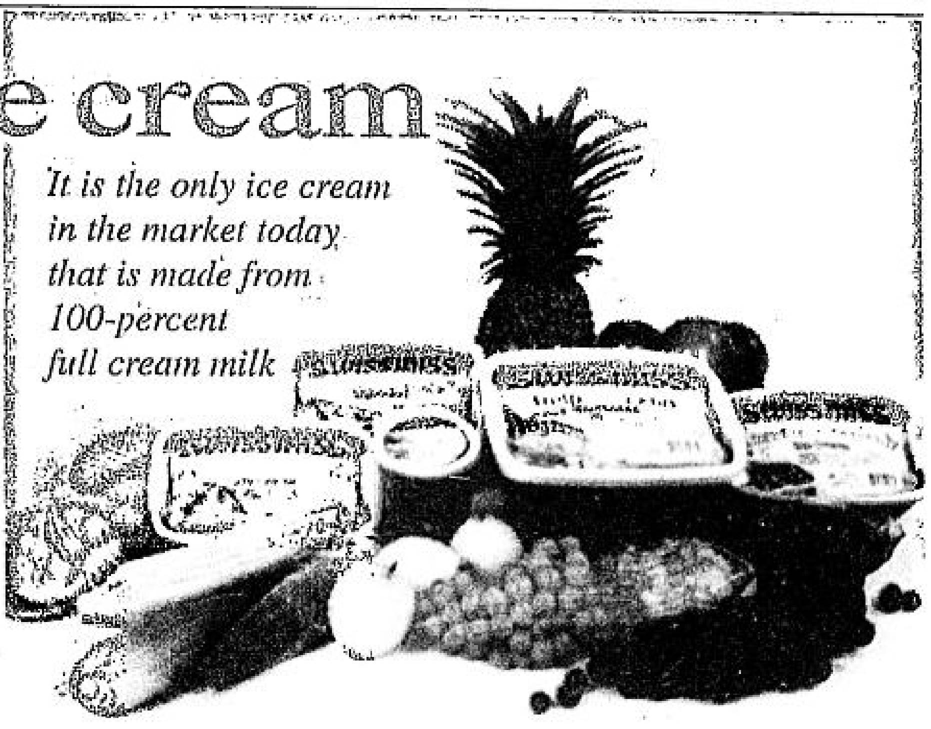
Ice cream lovers can satisfy their craving with its wide array of both local and international favorites. Swiss Miss has a wide variety of chocolate, mocha and vanilla-based ice cream: Cappuccino, Chocolate with Marshmallows, Suisse Mocha, Cookies 'N Cream, Chocolat Suisse, Rocky Road, Butter Pecan, French Vanilla, Choco Chip with Cookie Dough and Double Dutch.

They can also relish Swiss Miss excitingly delicious fruit flavors in California Sweet Corn, Mango Royale, Fruits 'N Cream and Strawberry Rhapsody. Popular Asian flavors will also be made available to the market soon.

And what makes Swiss Miss truly a superior quality ice cream is it is the only ice cream in the market today that conforms to US Food and Drug standards in ice cream manufacturing process. It is manufactured under the strictest supervision of ConAgra Grocery Products USA and by the only ISO 9002-certified ice cream manufacturing plant in the country today.

So what can only be a truly premium ice cream? Only Swiss Miss ice cream.

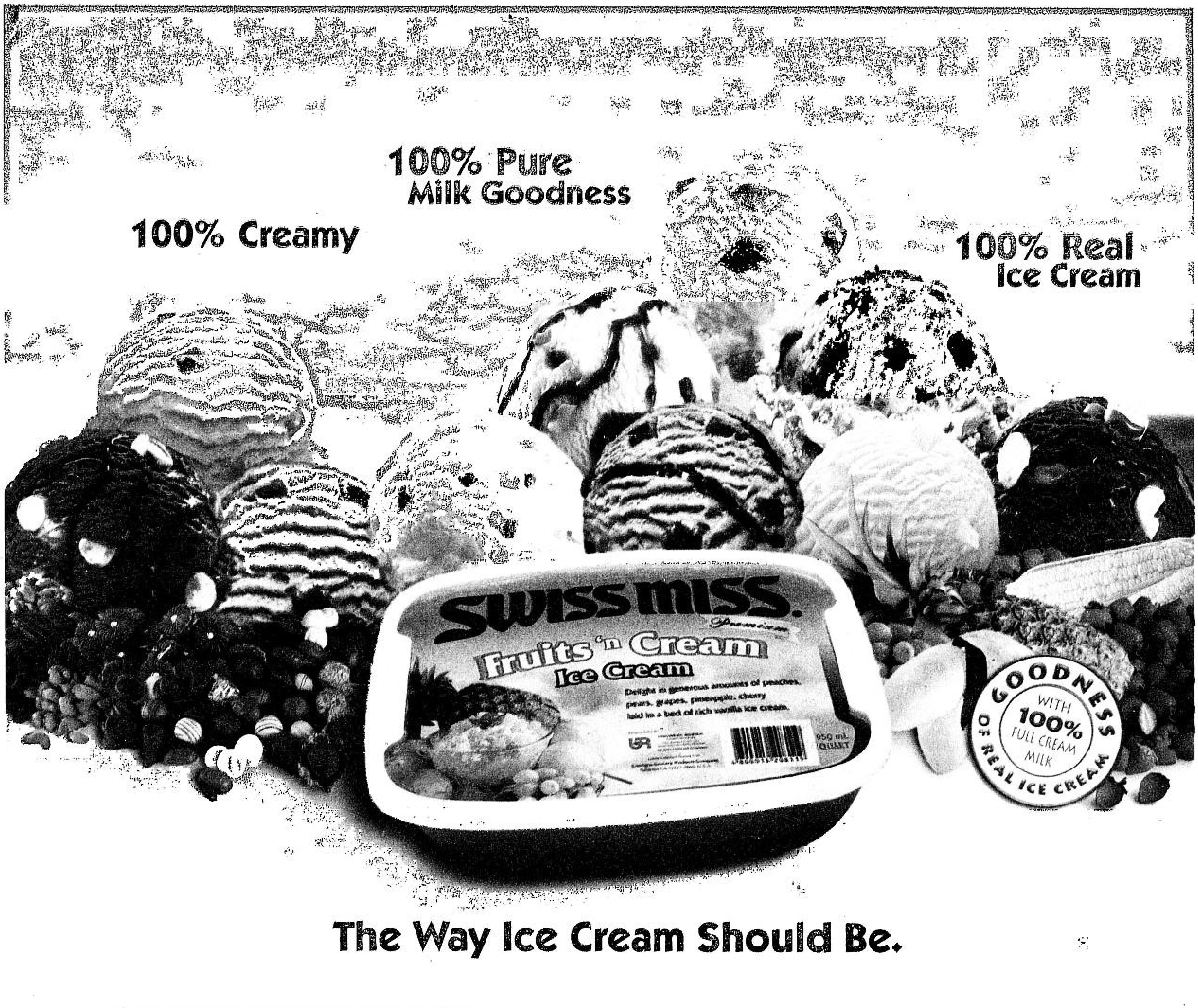
Ice cream lovers can relish its wide variety of chocolate, mocha and vanilla-based flavors plus its excitingly delicious fruit flavors in California Sweet Corn, Mango Royale, Fruits 'N Cream and Strawberry Rhapsody.



It is the only ice cream in the market today that is made from 100-percent full cream milk

P10 DOUBLE SCOOP ANNIVERSARY TREAT

KIDS and adults alike enjoy all the flavors of Swiss Miss Premium Ice Cream as they crowd Swiss Miss booths in selected major supermarkets nationwide. Swiss Miss is offering a P10 Double Scoop as part of its 1st anniversary celebration in the Philippines and also its way of thanking its many valued customers who have made Swiss Miss a success in the market.


100% Pure Milk Goodness
100% Creamy
100% Real Ice Cream
SWISS MISS
Fruits 'n Cream Ice Cream
GOODNESS OF REAL ICE CREAM
WITH 100% FULL CREAM MILK

The Way Ice Cream Should Be.

CHOOSE FROM A VARIETY OF FANTASTIC FLAVORS!

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CHOCO WITH MALLOWS
CHOCOLAT SUISSE
ROCKY ROAD

GOURMET MOCHA
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SUISSE MOCHA

REAL FRUITS
FRUITS 'N CREAM
STRAWBERRY RHAPSODY
MANGO ROYALE
CALIFORNIA SWEET CORN

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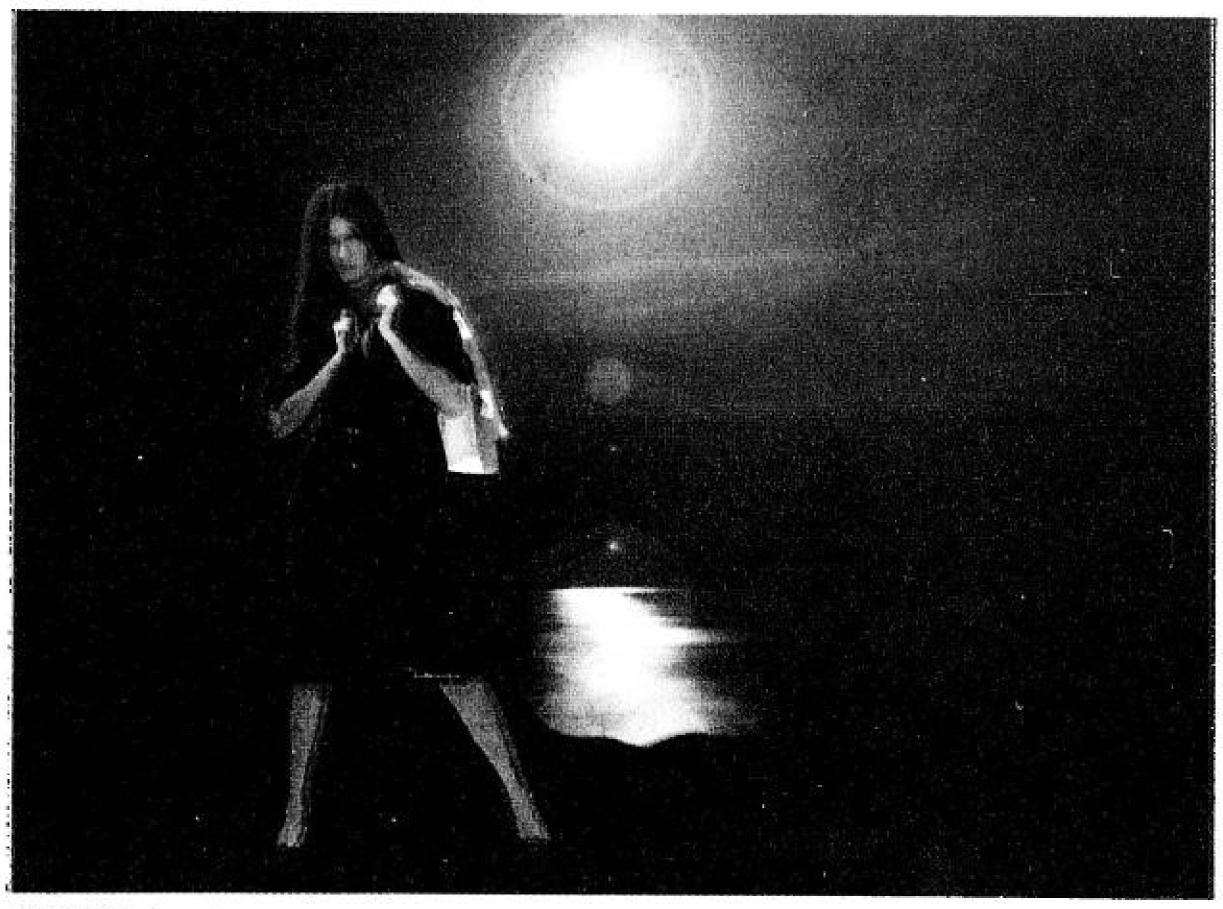
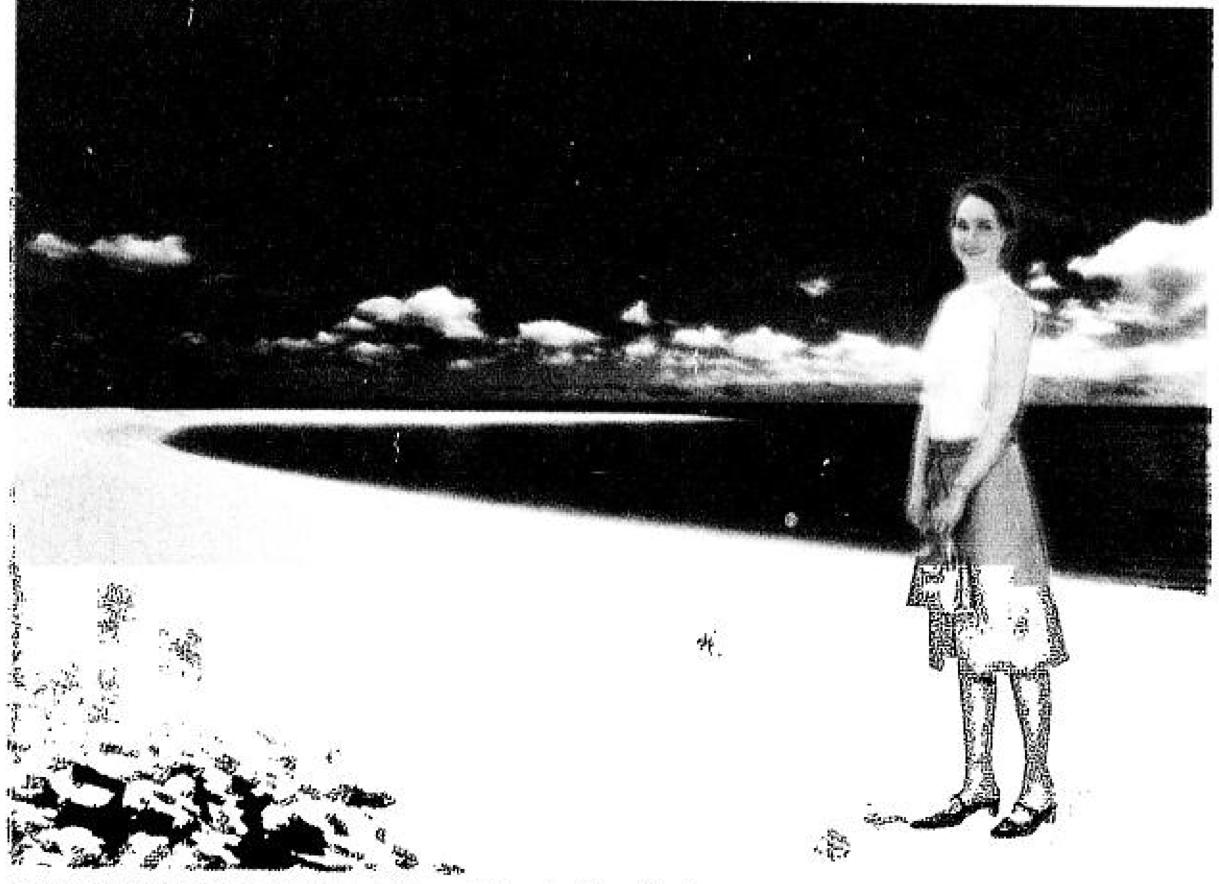
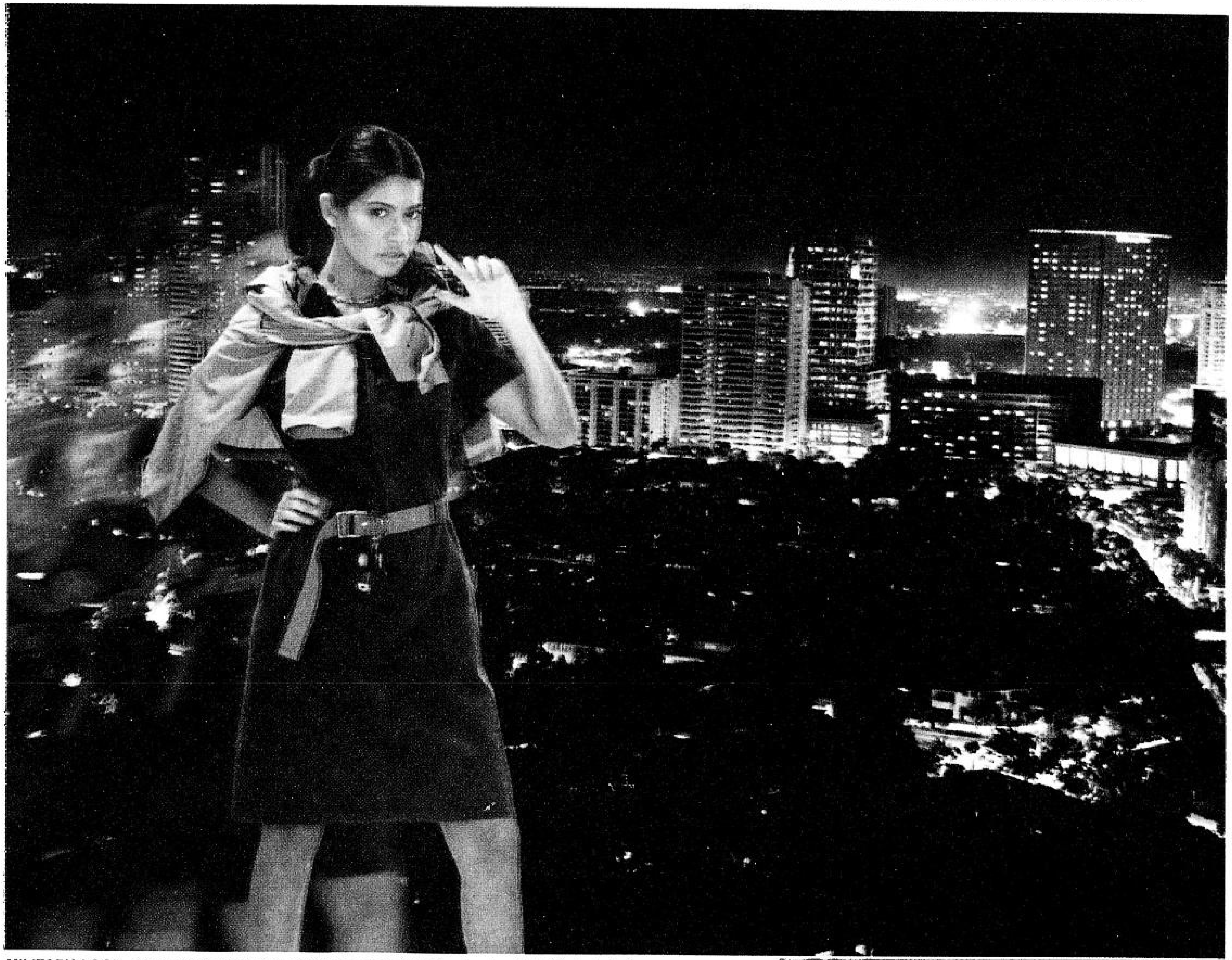


SPORTY. Assunta wears a cotton twill jacket with snap buttons and a black mid-length, four-pocket spandex skirt.



MIX a feminine ruffled blouse with a military-looking khaki stretch skirt with a beige belt.

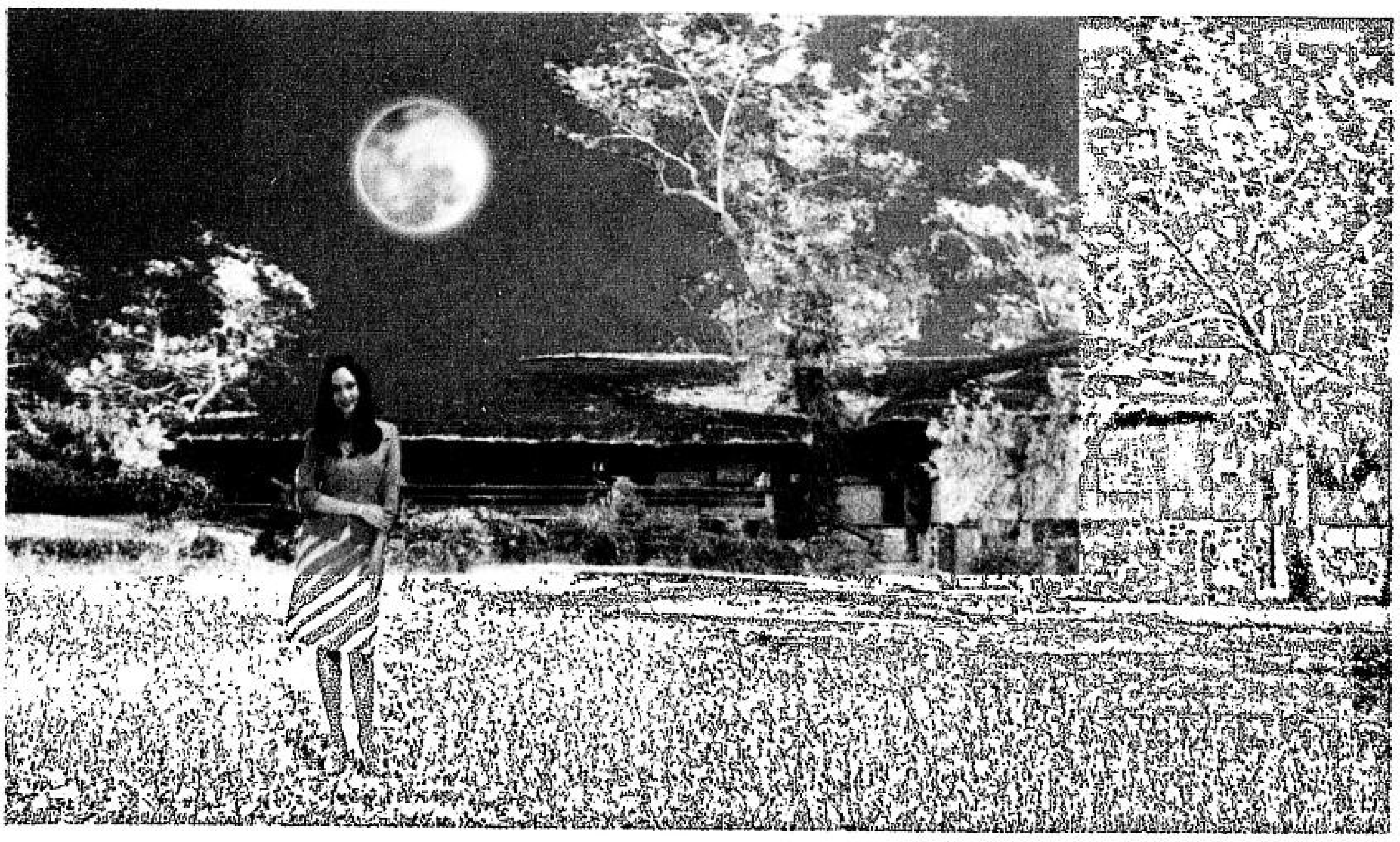
Herbench image models Lucy Torres-Gomez and Assunta da Rossi reflect the perennials of fashion—good manners and right conduct



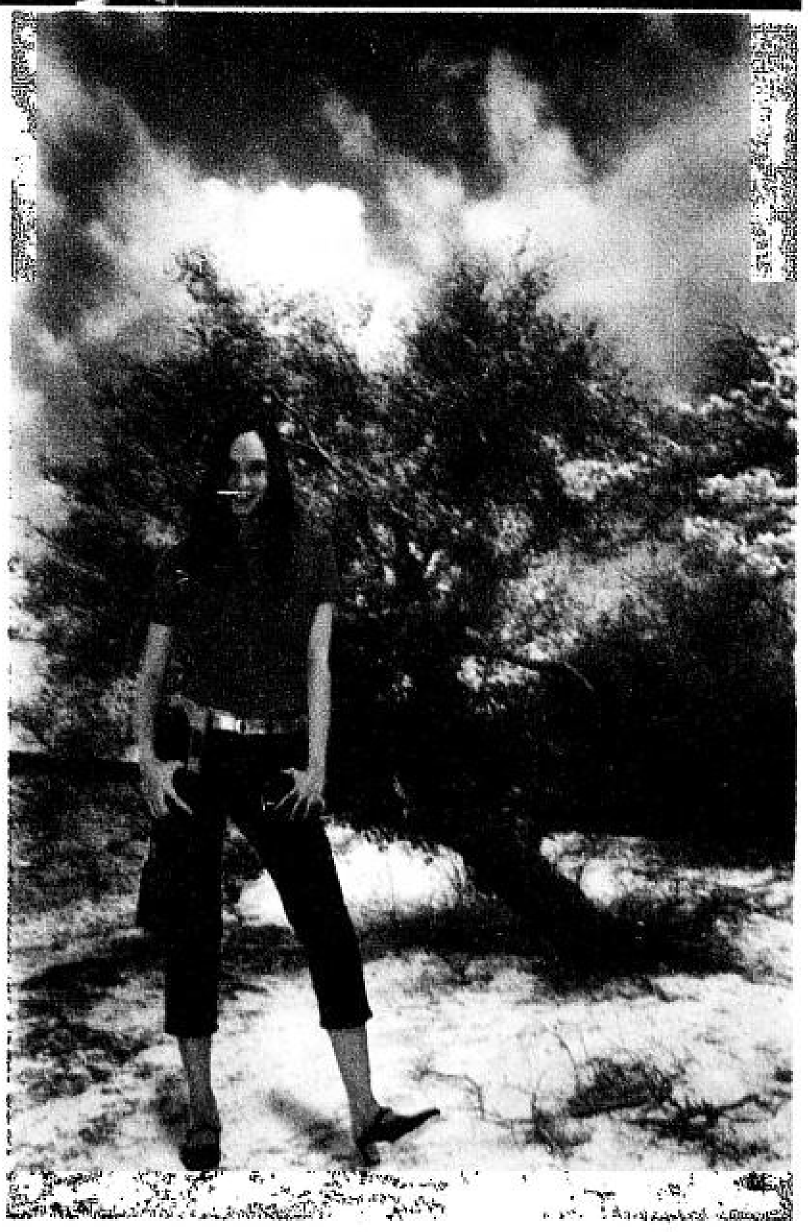
MILITARY LOOK. Army green dress with garrison belt and khaki nylon hooded full zip jacket.

Femmes of niceness

FEMMES/p.D9



SLIMMING STRIPES. Lucy wears a hyacinth cotton-lycra French sleeved top and a beige and hyacinth striped skirt



RED cotton-spandex blouse and denim capri pants with a light blue and white D-buckle webbing belt.

Femmes of niceness

(From page D8)

more respect," she said. She said actresses like her who made the radical choice are later given respect if they're handled by award-winning directors, photographed by top lensmen and styled by celebrity artists.

Loner

Assunta has just finished her third movie "Hubog," which means shape, directed by Joel Lamangan. She had worked with him on television, but in this film, she has found him to be exacting. "We have lots of rehearsals and retakes, but we don't finish late," she said.

She plays a promo girl-turned-laundrywoman. She takes care of her mentally challenged sister, portrayed by her real-life younger sister Alessandra. Since she's always away, Assunta doesn't know that the men in their baranggay are sexually abusing her sister.

By now, questions about exposing her flesh in front of the camera have become hackneyed. Her mother, who's always with Assunta, is uncomfortable watching the filming of the delicate scenes. "When we shoot, she stays in my room," said Assunta.

She has no qualms about expressing her sensuality, although she sets certain limits, especially before the takes. Assunta has often said in interviews that she is unlike her screen siren persona. "I'm shy and I can be a loner," she said. During the interview, she gave the impression that it was harder to bare her soul than to bare her body. And we later discovered that she was more comfortable with certain entertainment columnists.

Asked how she maintains her 34-25-35 figure, she replied, "I'm naturally slim so I can eat anything. I'm a very lazy person. I don't exercise." Actually, she eats only when she's hungry, and her portions are small.

Assunta said off-camera she's like any normal person. She studies her script, internalizes her role and seeks the director's advice if there are problems in delivering her role.

She admitted she doesn't get rave reviews for her performance. After all, she has done only three major films. Assunta takes the feedback as a learning experience.

Dutiful daughter

She's also a dutiful daughter. Because they have jobs, Assunta and Alessandra share in the household expenses. When Assunta earns $5,000, she sends the money to her father, Luigi, who is building a home in Maglie, Italy. She qualified that her parents are not separated. She claimed that her father just couldn't hack the Manila lifestyle. In another interview, Assunta explained that her father could no longer handle the hectic lives of his two show-biz daughters.

At 18, Assunta has been acting with great responsibility. She cares for outcomes; she guarantees her cooperation and takes care of her well-being. She's non-combative or non-confrontational in this tough world. This ingenue is smart enough to give in when there's a lockout, yet she never plays the underdog.

"My parents taught me to be cooperative," she said.

What's real

Assunta and Lucy Torres-Gomez are both uncomplicated. They have this instinct of staying with what's real and keeping their lives simple.

Lucy makes the perfect companion. Manileños have lost the fine art of conversation. Most of the time, conversations revolve around gossip about other people's lives. Lucy brings with her basic value of showing genuine interest in the person she's talking to. She never speaks ill of anyone. Her voice is always gentle and soft. These traits have endeared her to many.

She and Richard Gomez are like Barbie and Ken, the golden couple. Now that their sitcom "Richard Loves Lucy" is off the air, Lucy is enjoying her role as wife and mother to the hilt.

"It's better than what I had expected. The romance is still there. I thought it would wane and we would get into each other's nerves," she said. Like most relationships, there are arguments and spats, but Lucy never meets her husband head-on. She waits for Richard to cool down so they discuss things objectively.

She's his biggest fan in the TV law drama "Your Honor."

"When we did our show or in 'Palibhasa Lalaki,' Richard would just play around. Now he can't adlib. He has to memorize," she said. Lucy added that Richard has a new sport—hunting.

"Our relationship is stronger now especially with Julianna," she said. Julianna is 16 months now. Her first word was "power," which really means "flower." Flower power became the theme of her first birthday party. It had a lead-time of five months for the preparation. Lucy packed some 200 giveaways for the children and their nannies.

When she's not taking care of Julianna, she keeps fit with Pilates and Taebo. Lucy was never an exercise person, but in Manila, socializing always revolves around meals. Exercise serves as the psychological buffer for indulgence.

She also took cooking lessons with Beth Romualdez. Her husband approves of her recipe for crabs.

This Christmas she'll be decorating the house and wrapping all the gifts, particularly for Richard's godchildren (the list runs to over 40). "These are the ones I know or he remembers," she said.

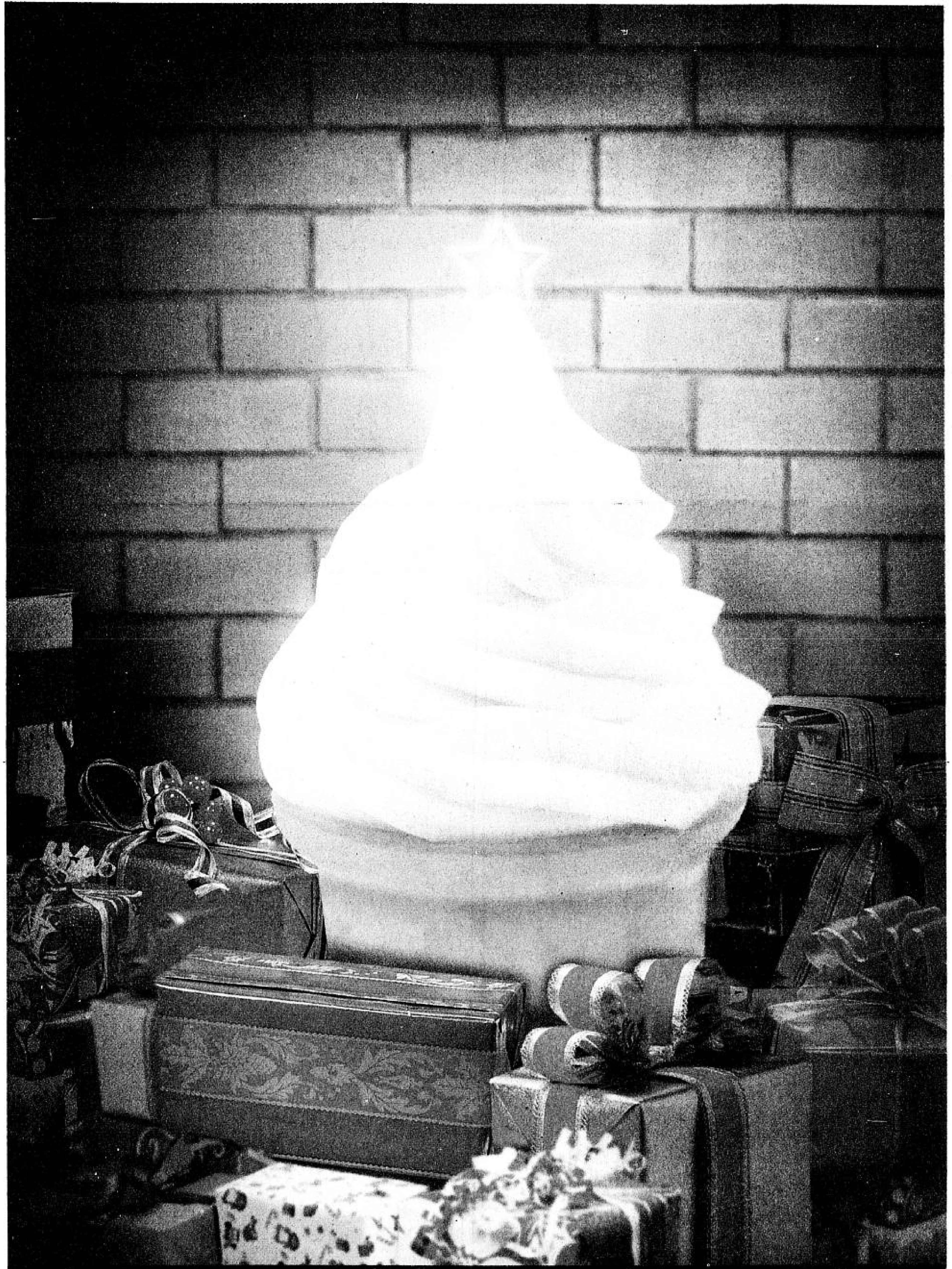
But Lucy is always ready. She's got a cabinet that is a treasure trove of presents that can be given to anyone on any occasion.

You could say that the cabinet is a metaphor for Lucy's being. She's full of nice qualities that she can give to people when they need them.

CLOTHES: HERBENCH
ACCESSORIES: BVLGARI
SHOES: LILA ALMARIO
HAIR AND MAKEUP: JUAN SARTEIII
STYLING: NOEL MANAPAT
PHOTOGRAPHED AND PROCESSED AT STUDIO 58 LAB 10, 58
MCKINLEY ROAD, FORBES PARK. TEL. NO. 867-2188

There's a part of them that is untouched by living in a less-than-perfect world

NON-COLORS. Assunta wears a charcoal fringed, zip jacket with a printed tee and black capris. All materials are made of cotton-spandex.



Maligayang PasCONE!

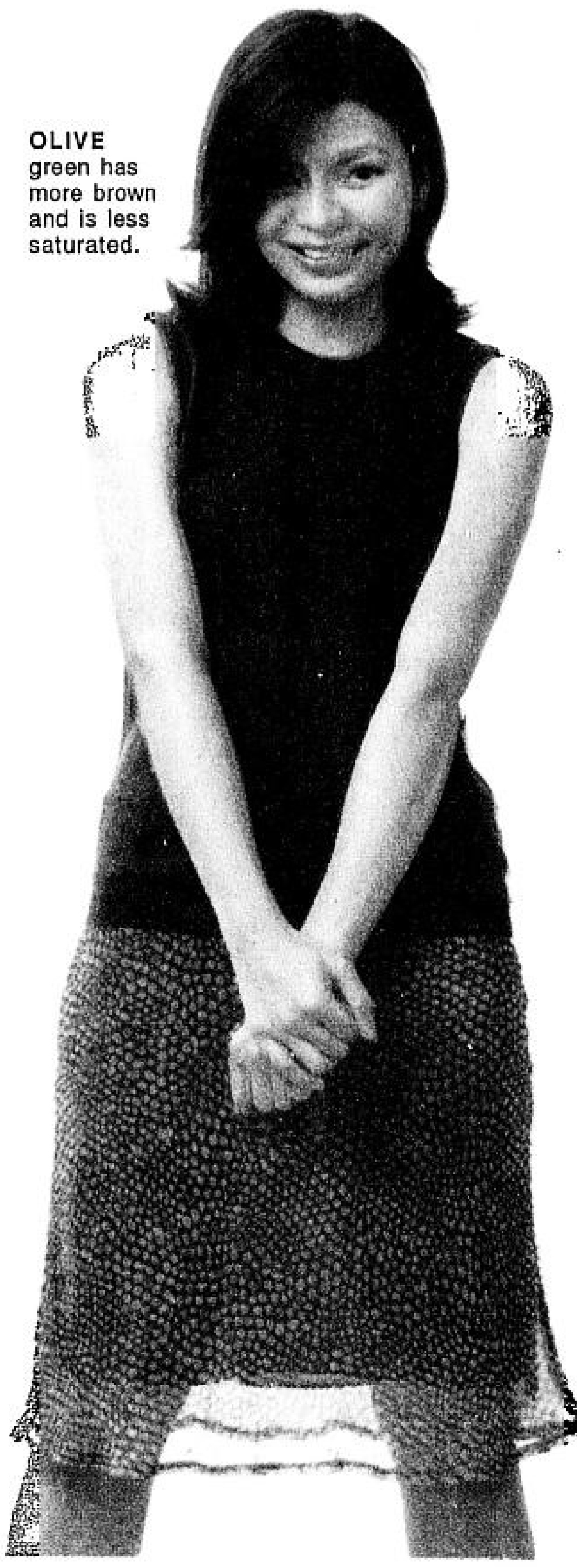
Cone Twirl na ba ang tingin mo sa Christmas tree? Gutom lang 'yan! Mag-Jollibee ka na!
Ngayon, maraming bagong stores na mapupuntahan, kaya talagang " 'tis the season to be jolly!"

Metrotown, Tarlac • Roosevelt, Ortigas • Santiago City Bayan, Isabela • Surigao • Robinson's Place Metro East • Robinson's Place, Novaliches • Leon Kilat, Cebu • Cebu Cinerama • Cebu Guadalupe • Magic Mangaldan, Pangasinan • Bonifacio Stop-over • Robinson's Place, Iloilo • Rizal, Legaspi • Pntl • SM City Davao • Carmen, Rosales, Pangasinan • Lucao, Dagupan City, Pangasinan

Kahit saan lumingon, may langhap-sarap doon!

Jollibee

I am curious yellow-green



OLIVE green has more brown and is less saturated.

This color adds frolic to what is supposedly a merry season

By Camille Cruz
Contributor
Photos by Patrick Uy

AT THIS time of year, there is no sunshine yellow enough to warm the cold. Of course, it may be a bit too early to bring out the sunny colors of summer, but yellow-green can fit the season if you do it right.

Yellow and yellow-green have had a mixed reception particularly because they are difficult to match with one's wardrobe. But subtle forms of canary, lemon and mixes of greenish yellow and brown are seeping into clothing and accessories this season.

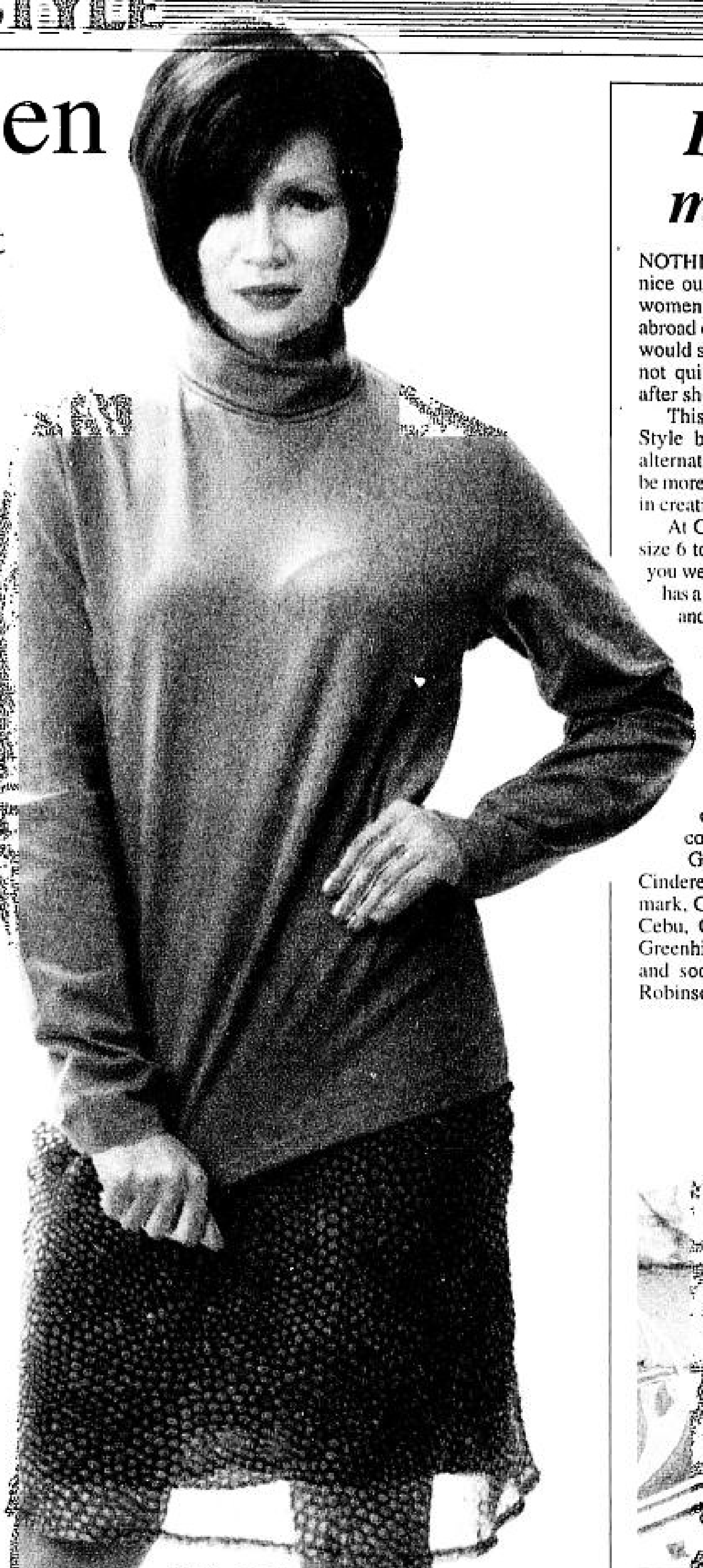
Brown and yellow or yellow-green pair very well especially when used with a yellow bottom and a two-toned brown belt. As seen in pieces by top designer Marc Jacobs, a sunshine yellow micro miniskirt or pair of shorts can go with a neutral romantic blouse-inspired top in islet print or soft floral chiffon. Topped with a striped brown and neutral elastic striped belt, this look is fresh and even a bit futuristic.

Shades of brown that pair very well with yellow are caramel, khaki and even chocolate brown. Brown is known as a color of trust. It has sophistication.

A yellow belt, a dark brown bag and shoes, and white shirt and jeans are a good mix.

Mixing a little bit of neutral with yellow or yellow-green and brown can be a refreshing change for those black outfits worn over and over again. Sometimes you have to step away from the dark and walk into the light.

CLOTHES: BENETTON FALL-WINTER COLLECTION
MODELS: OLEN LIM-JUAREZ AND RISSA SAMSON
MAKEUP BY HENRY CALAYAG OF H SALON



THIS color says "I'm alert and alive!"

Fat doesn't mean frump

NOTHING is more frustrating than finding a nice outfit in a store, which does not fit. Big women would always have to buy clothes abroad or even have them made-to-order which would sometimes lead to disaster since they're not quite sure how the clothes will turn out after shelling out a lot of cash for it.

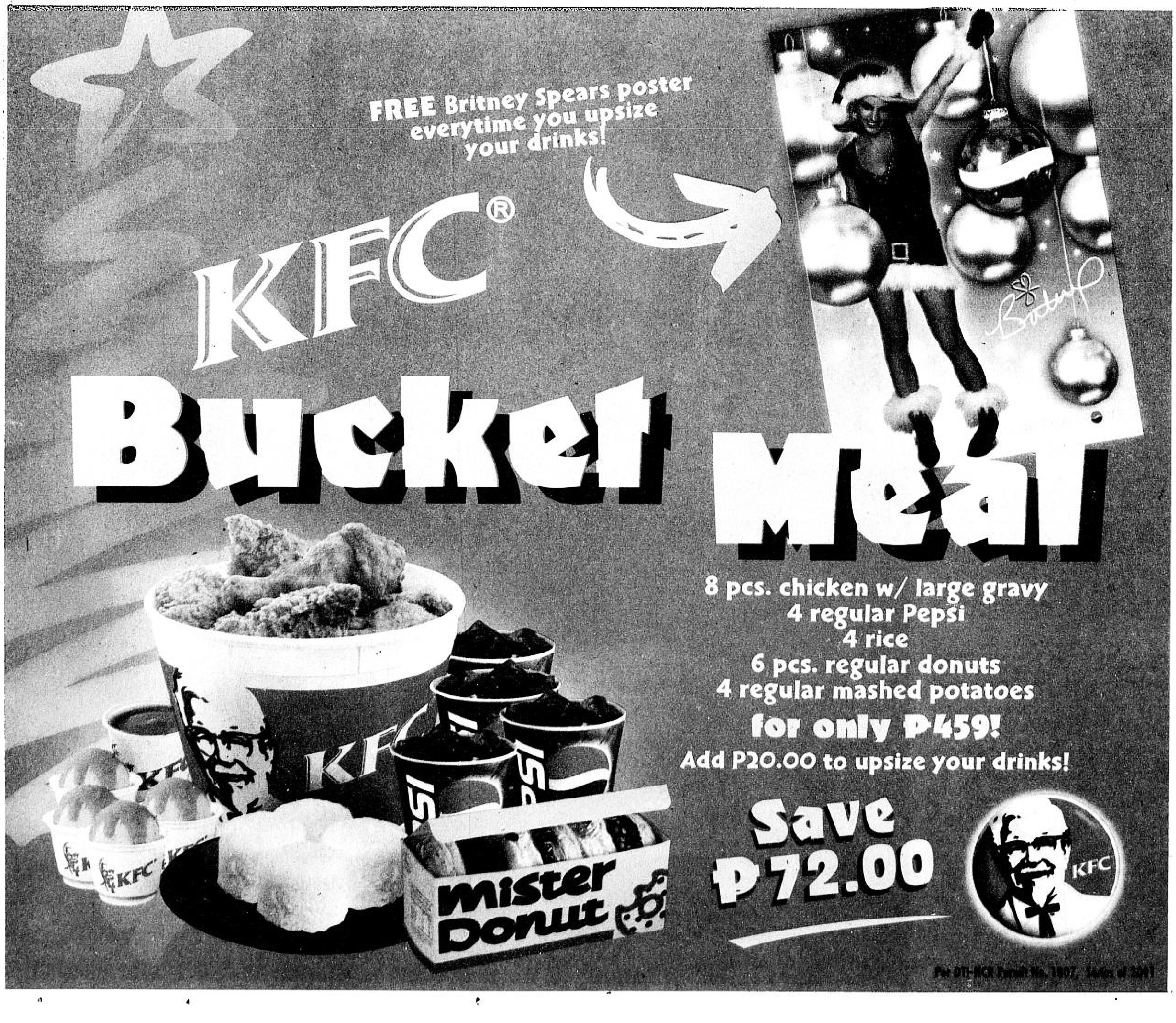
This is where GWS: Great Women with Style becomes a great help. It's a fashion alternative for plus-size women who want to be more adventurous, sexy, trendy and confident in creating their own personal style in dressing.

At GWS, one does not have to be a small or size 6 to be sexy or gorgeous. It's not what size you wear; it's how you wear it. The color wheel has a whole spectrum of colors that can enhance and even change how you feel about yourself.

Everybody has a comfort level about what they can wear and can't wear. At GWS, there's always an option for one's size. It features clothes that are classic in style, can be worn from the office and accessorized for the evening. There are also coordinates one can experiment with different color options. These are available in silk, linen, cotton and stretch fabrics.

GWS is available at Cinderella Megamall, Cinderella North Mall in Glorietta 3, The Landmark, Cora Jacobs Collection in Ayala Center Cebu, Cora Jacobs Collection in Virra Mall Greenhills, Victoria Department Store in Davao and soon-to-open Cora Jacobs Collection in Robinsons Galleria Expansion Mall.

LOOK chic in a trendy shirt and capri pants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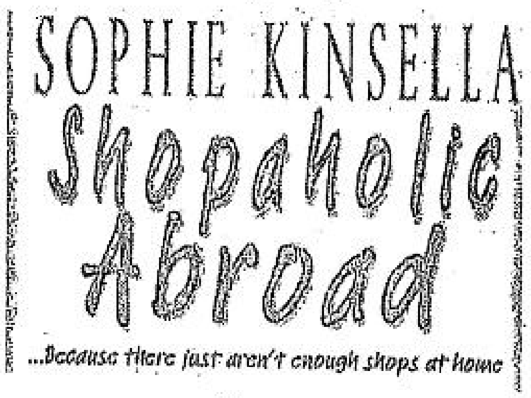
Not-so-secret life of a shopaholic

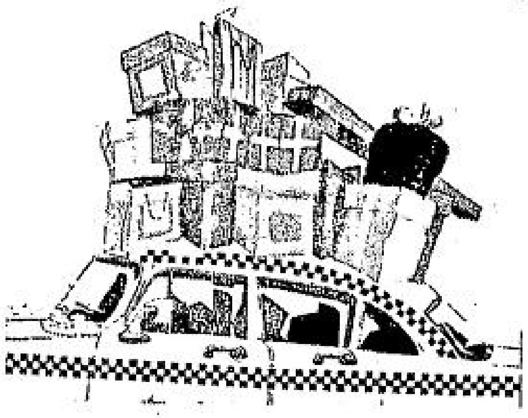
Becky Bloomwood, heroine of 'Confessions of a Shopaholic,' returns this time to try the goods in New York. Needless to say, she contracts the virus again

Shopaholic Abroad
By Sophie Kinsella
Black Swan, 2001, 350 pages

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ
Contributor

REVIEW





THE POSTER girl for all shopaholics has returned. Becky Bloomwood, who first entered our consciousness in "Confessions of a Shopaholic" ("Secret Dream World of a Shopaholic" in some editions) is back in Sophie Kinsella's much-awaited sequel, "Shopaholic Abroad." The book, which has just hit the best-seller list in London, (to be released in the US under the title "Shopaholic Takes Manhattan" in January 2002) has our dear Becky where we last left her, working in the television show "Morning Coffee" and enjoying a blissful relationship with the hotshot PR executive Luke Brandon.

When Luke's company decides to open a New York office, Becky decides to check out her prospects for work in America as well. After a whiff of Bloomingdales, her first sample sale, and boutique shopping in Soho, Becky declares that she was born to live in America. Booked at the Four Seasons and running from one meeting to another and swamped with offers, Becky's life seems to be on the upturn. She spends her days sightseeing (well, landmarks like the Rockefeller Center and St. Patrick's Cathedral ARE beside Saks Fifth) and going to museums—um, museum shops, that is.

Of course, there is a slight, minor problem. A shopaholic in New York is like an alcoholic in an open bar. New York City is the Mecca of shoppers. Nothing can come close to the wealth of choices in New York, and to imagine Becky Bloomwood in such an environment, we simply had to hold our breaths!

Warped

With a new extended line of credit and Barney's just a few blocks away, Becky can't remember if that Prada dress was $10 or $100. It doesn't matter anyway. In Becky's warped way of looking at things, money doesn't count when it is in a different currency. But when she starts signing charge slips for a Vera Wang dress worth a few thousand dollars, Becky has a nagging feeling that she might be in trouble. Things eventually catch up with her and Becky finds herself in the lowest possible ebb of her life. But this is Becky Bloomwood, our modern-day Cinderella, and expectedly everything works itself out in the end.

Sophie Kinsella's novels are light and easy reads. They are, thankfully, devoid of any angst—which is great when you just want a book to get your mind off things. Her plots are somewhat flimsy but her characters are absolutely endearing, from Derek Smeath, the Endwich bank manager, to Suze, Becky's heiress flatmate. And of course, the unflappable Becky who's every woman. Well, the satirized shadow of every woman that is. Kinsella has succeeded in translating the female psyche zeroing in on the phenomenon of women and shopping. Women shop differently from men. Of course, men shop. They can even sometimes have a big spree—a few CDs, a couple of shirts, a gadget, and then that's it for the next six months. Women, on the other hand, seem to suffer from amnesia after a big purchase. A week after a wardrobe overhaul, they have nothing new to wear.

Seeing ourselves

Seeing a little bit of ourselves in Becky Bloomwood seems to be what makes the "Shopaholic" novels so appealing. Just reading what goes on in Becky's brain is something many women can relate to. How many times have we justified buying that wonderful bag which we insist is an "investment" because it is the most beautiful bag in the world? And naturally we promise that we will never buy another bag again, only to find ourselves repeating the same internal argument with ourselves in a month's time. What about finding that perfect dress that makes us look like we walked out of the pages of Vogue? How we simply MUST have it. Or that perfect shade of lipstick that will surely transform us... the list of temptations is endless. If it's not one thing, it's another. And every woman has gone through this agonizing cycle at least once in her life. And she lives to regret it. How many of us have contemplated on that funky pair of shoes we bought last year, saying to ourselves, "What was I thinking?" And what about the lure of sales? What is it about sales that possess us into buying things we don't need just because. But the thing that makes "Shopaholic" so much fun is that Becky gets away with her fuzzy logic and all, warranting nothing but a mere slap on the wrists for overspending making her truly a heroine of our times!

"Shopaholic Abroad" is a fun read. Especially for those of who enjoyed "Confessions of a Shopaholic," and want more of Becky's unique world, this sequel doesn't disappoint. And if, like me, you feel that you will owe Visa and MasterCard money till you are 90 years old, this book is a must. It might not help you pay your bills, but at the very least reading it will be cathartic.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com.

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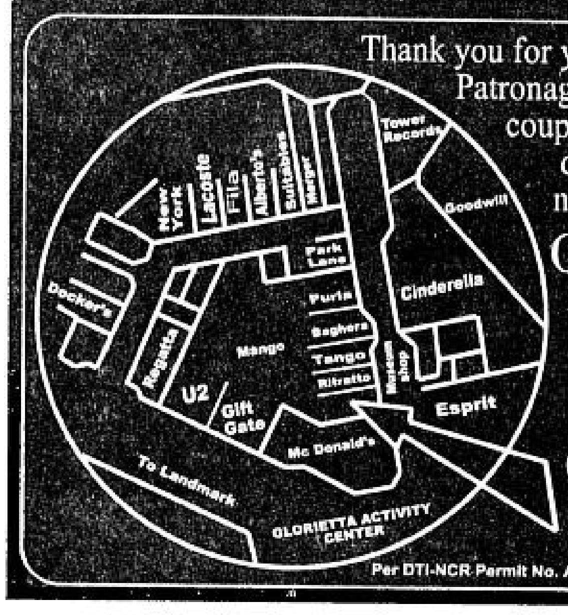

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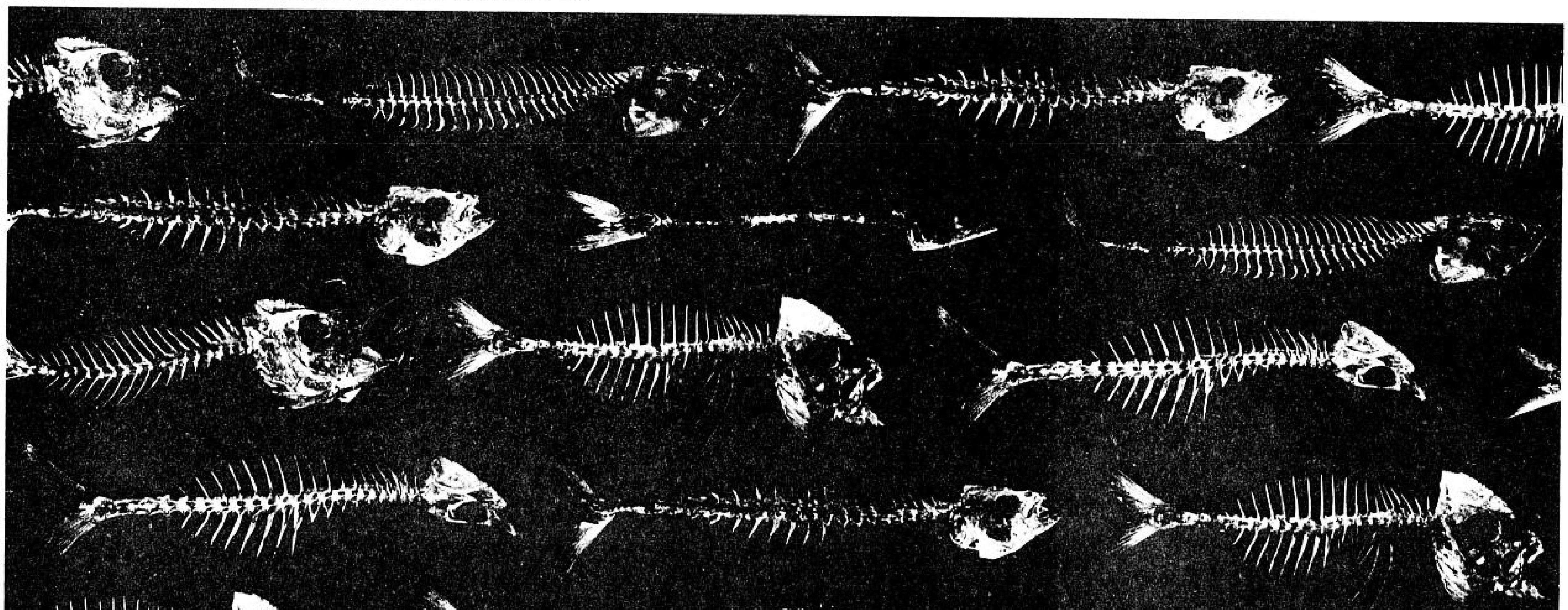

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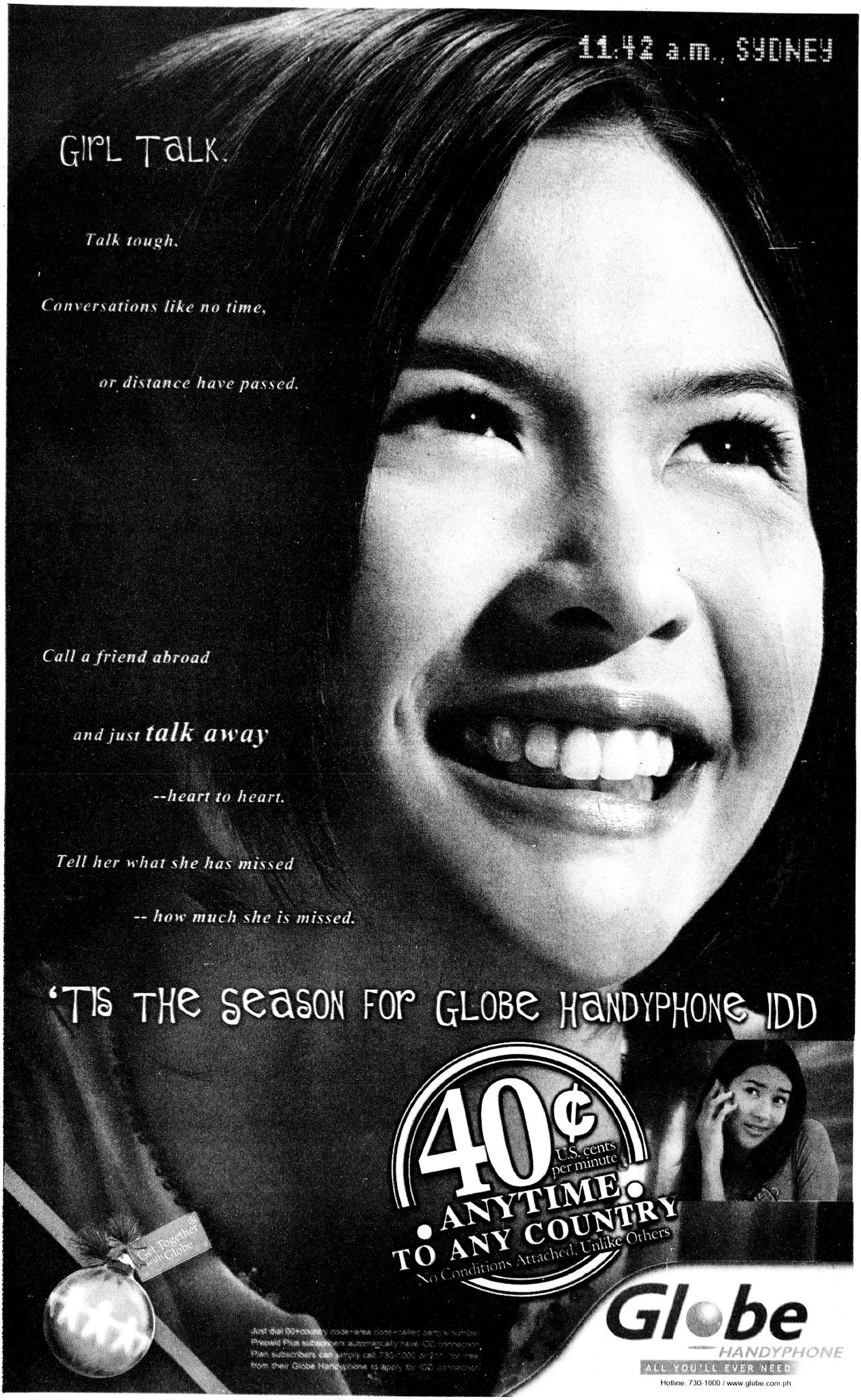

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Lakeside homes get a dash of resort ambience

BY CATHY SALDANA-NOLIDO
Contributor
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

IN A MODEL home for Lakeside Farms in San Pablo, Laguna, Ernest Santiago has created lifestyle settings that borrow elements from gracious tropical design. The artist and decorator has produced a tapestry of color and detail that redefines the essence of living in this resort-type residential development.

Lakeside Farms is a sprawling development in a thickly forested and rolling terrain. Buyers and visitors enjoy a spread of *lanzones*, *rambutan* and other fruit-bearing trees, which have remained untouched. The lake, which gave the place its name, offers the joyful prospect of early morning fishing as part of a leisurely lifestyle.

The scenery is wonderful. Mt. Banahaw, majestic and serene, is a perfect backdrop for delightful afternoons of relaxation and get-together with family and friends. This place has become a retirement haven, not just a weekend retreat. Many Laguna residents are building their dream homes there because of the naturally rugged landscape.

Surprising touches

Santiago brings to the compact model home his love for surprising touches of interior fervor. His choices of color never fail to delight, consistently vibrant or appropriately subtle, depending on the mood to be established. Typically, he has filled the place with his signature furniture pieces in recycled *molave* and other hardwoods, exacting pieces that are certain to be the antiques of the future.

With a preference for bringing much of the outdoors in, huge windows frame majestic vistas and the expanse of trees, looking like three-dimensional renderings that vary with the intensity of sunlight. With the outdoor view stretching to the mountains, the energetic decorator describes it as "borrowed scenery."

Refreshing contrasts

Space is transformed as the furniture and design elements are introduced. Bamboo, simple and elegant, takes center stage as accent and as functional items. Soft furnishings and upholstery, mostly in white and cream, provide a refreshing contrast to brightly hued color washes of ochre, yel-

LAKESIDE/p.E3

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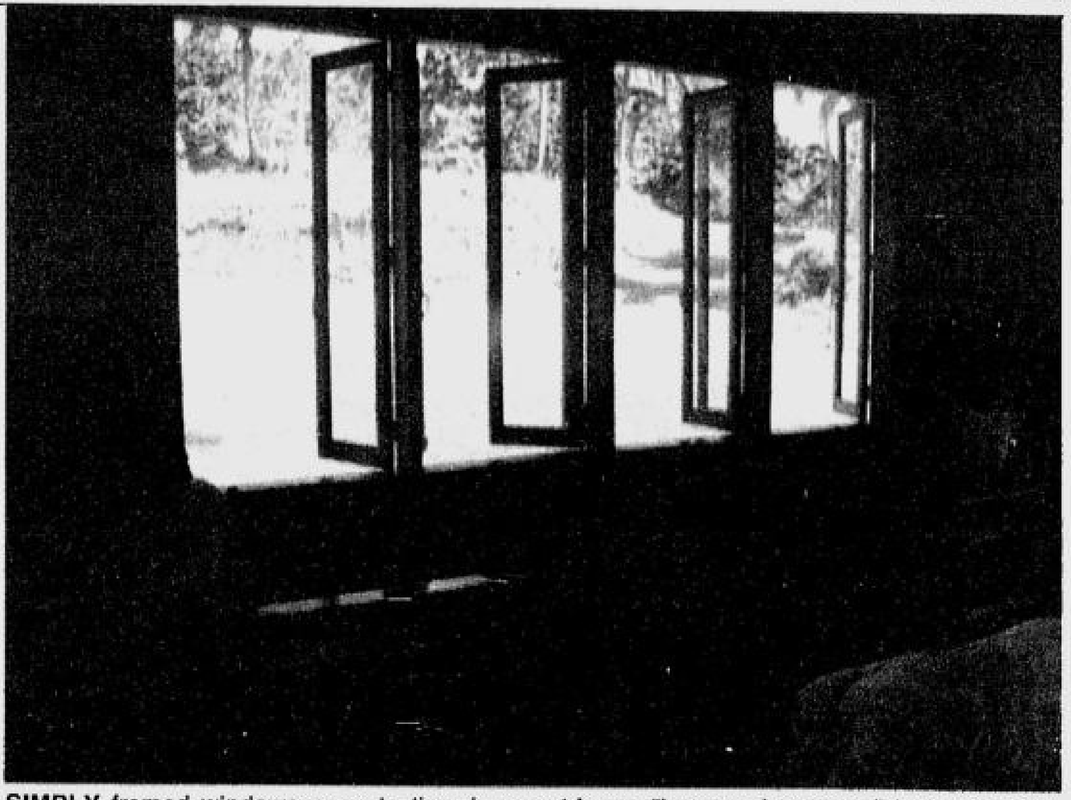
Ernest Santiago designs with lush landscape, naturally ventilated spaces and traditional, homegrown materials



SIMPLY framed windows open to the views outdoors, "borrowed scenery," lush with fruit-bearing trees.

TWIN beds share a vibrantly painted wash on trowel finished concrete walls. Wooden frames clad the metal track of a sliding door leading to the bathroom two steps down.

Lakeside homes get a dash of resort ambience

(From page E1)

low orange and melon. A loft is to be divided into a private nook, with possibilities for an entertainment-audio room and an additional bedroom.

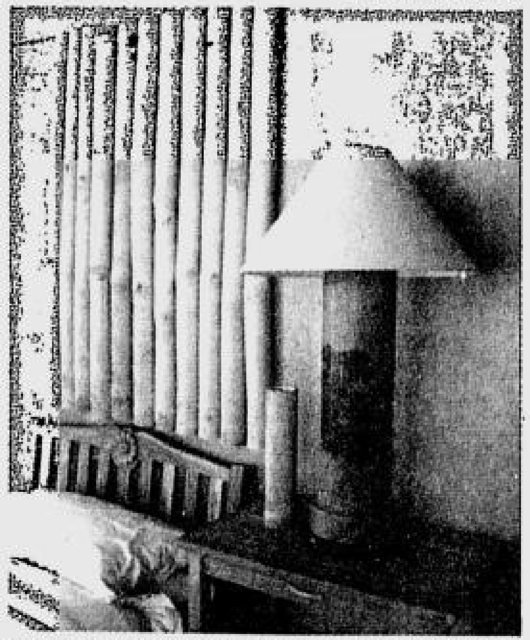
The house is naked against a backdrop of forested hills. In essence, its sub-spaces extend to the outdoors as the bathroom is an al fresco structure, partially roofed but walled in for privacy. Window shutters can be folded away. From the loft, windows open to reveal tree tops. Simply framed sliding glass doors in the porch let in the cold breezes that November brings. CPAC Monier roof tiles insulate the house's inside from the heat, blending well with the natural colors of the site even as they protect the structure.

High ceiling

The trusses are revealed to maintain the high-ceilinged concept. Cool air is allowed in while warm air rises outward. It is a tropical house indeed.

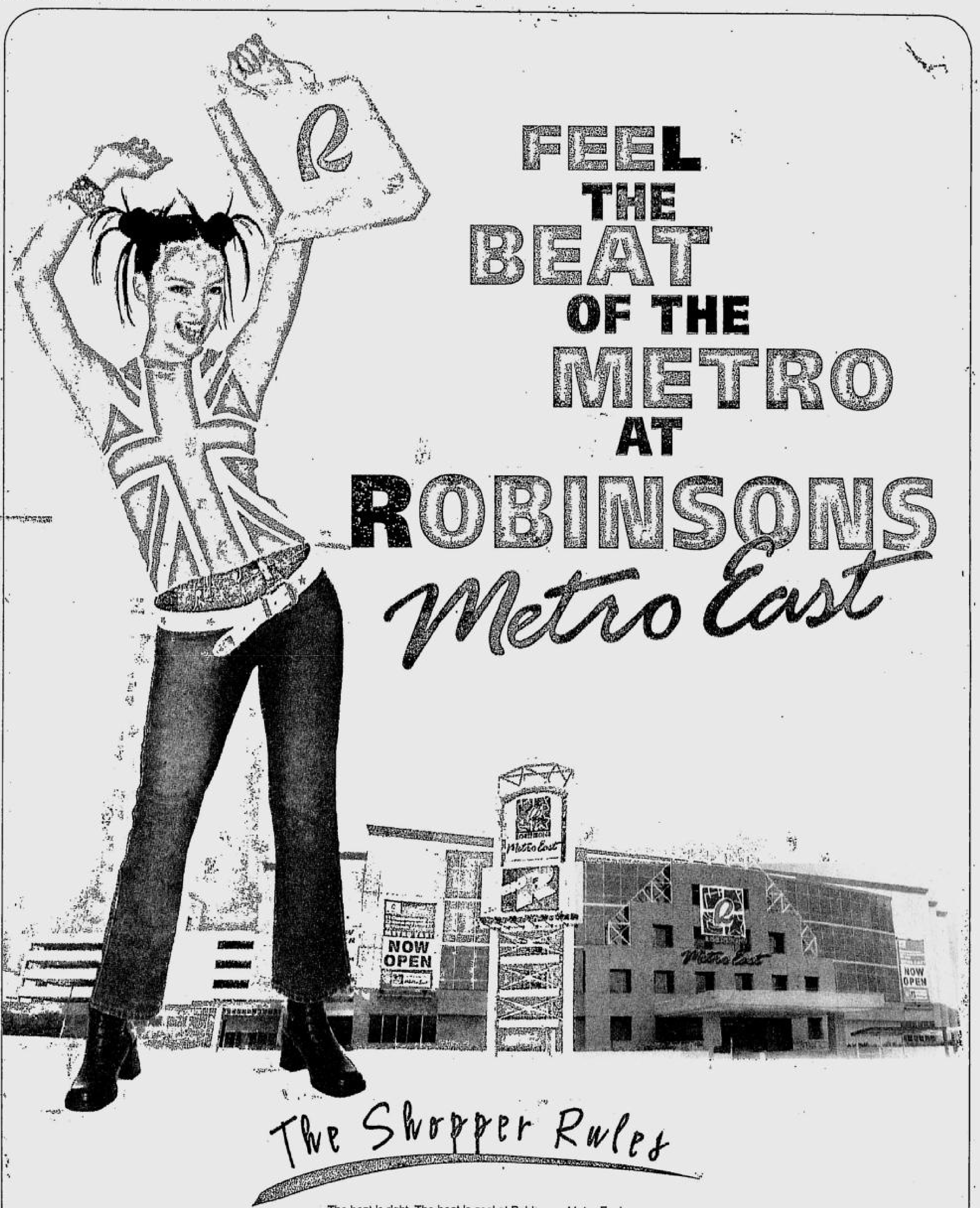
The all-embracing character of this home is a reflection of the enveloping tranquility that the quiet hillsides bring. Creating a visual setting such as this demands just a little of Santiago's talents.

LAKESIDE/p.E6



THE BAMBOO board merges vertical forms as it rests above the bed and beside a lamp fashioned from an antique terra-cotta sewer pipe.

THE BATHROOM is done in the al fresco spirit. The water closet is roofed but the shower stall is not. Natural driftwood becomes the shampoo and soap stand in this brightly colored space.



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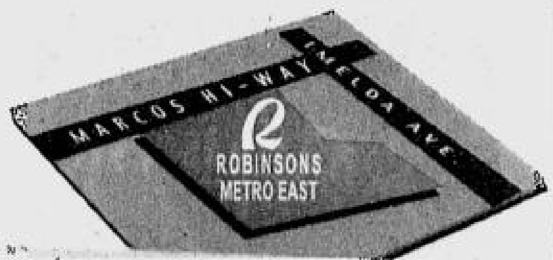

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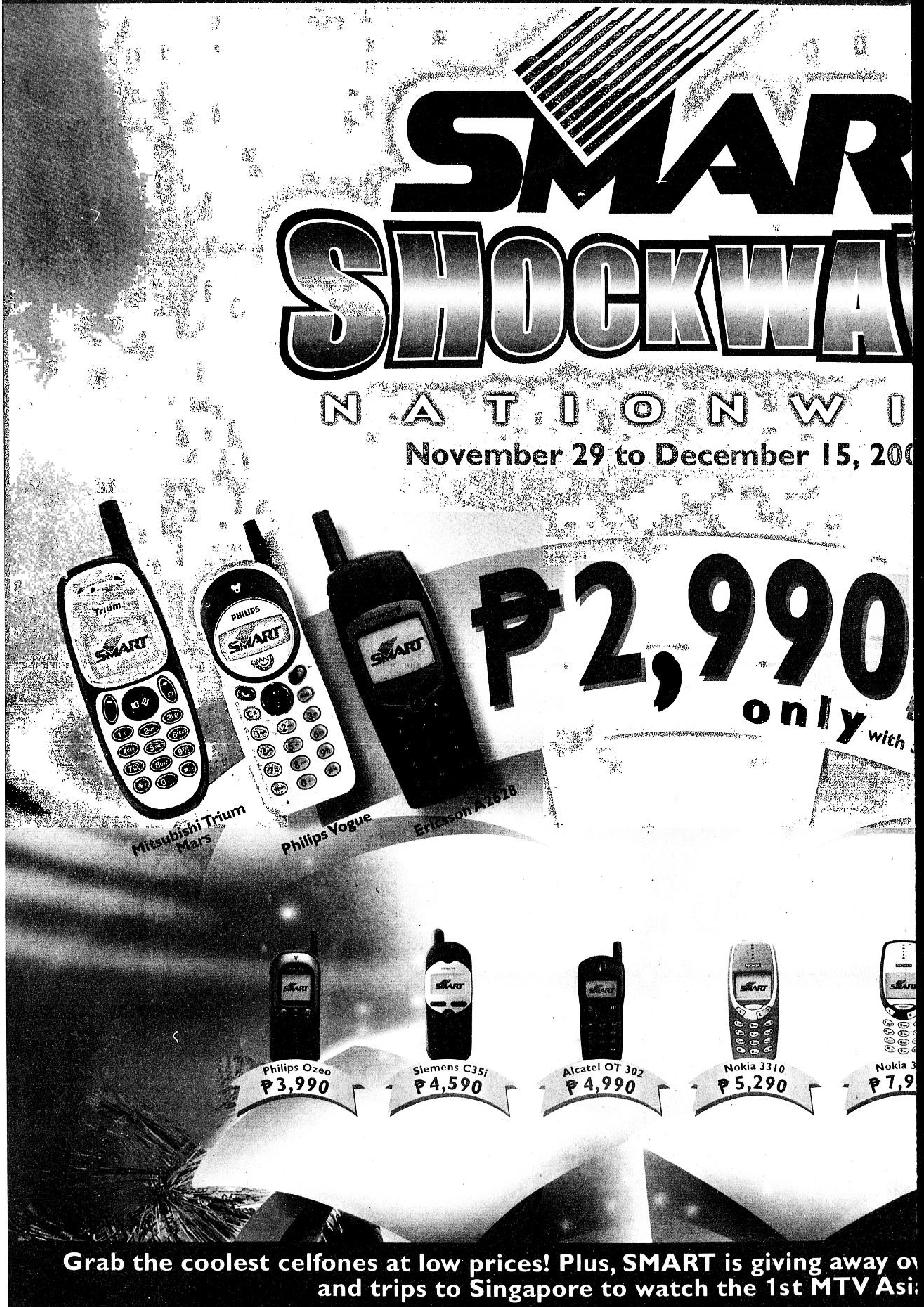

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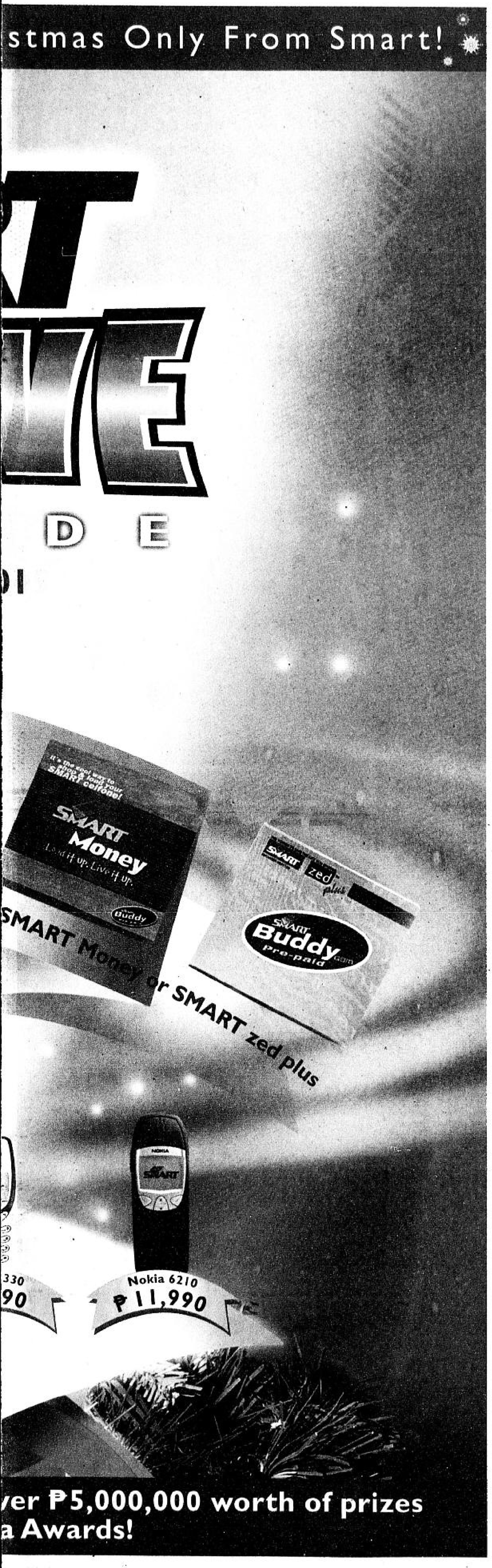

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*See Barkada SIM Swap Raffle flyers.

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*See Smart Amazing Christmas Treat flyers.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1939, Series of 2001..

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ve, Maconfi, Cell Station, **JS CitiMall, Davao**: Radiam, Celltone; **Gaisano Mall, Davao**: Microcell, Symphony; **Victoria Plaza, Davao**: Call sign, Ringtone; SM City, Davao: I Hop, Wyltelcom; **Butuan**: Star Cellulars; **Dipolog**: Metro Shoppers, Janvic Ent.; **Ozamis**: Gold Square,
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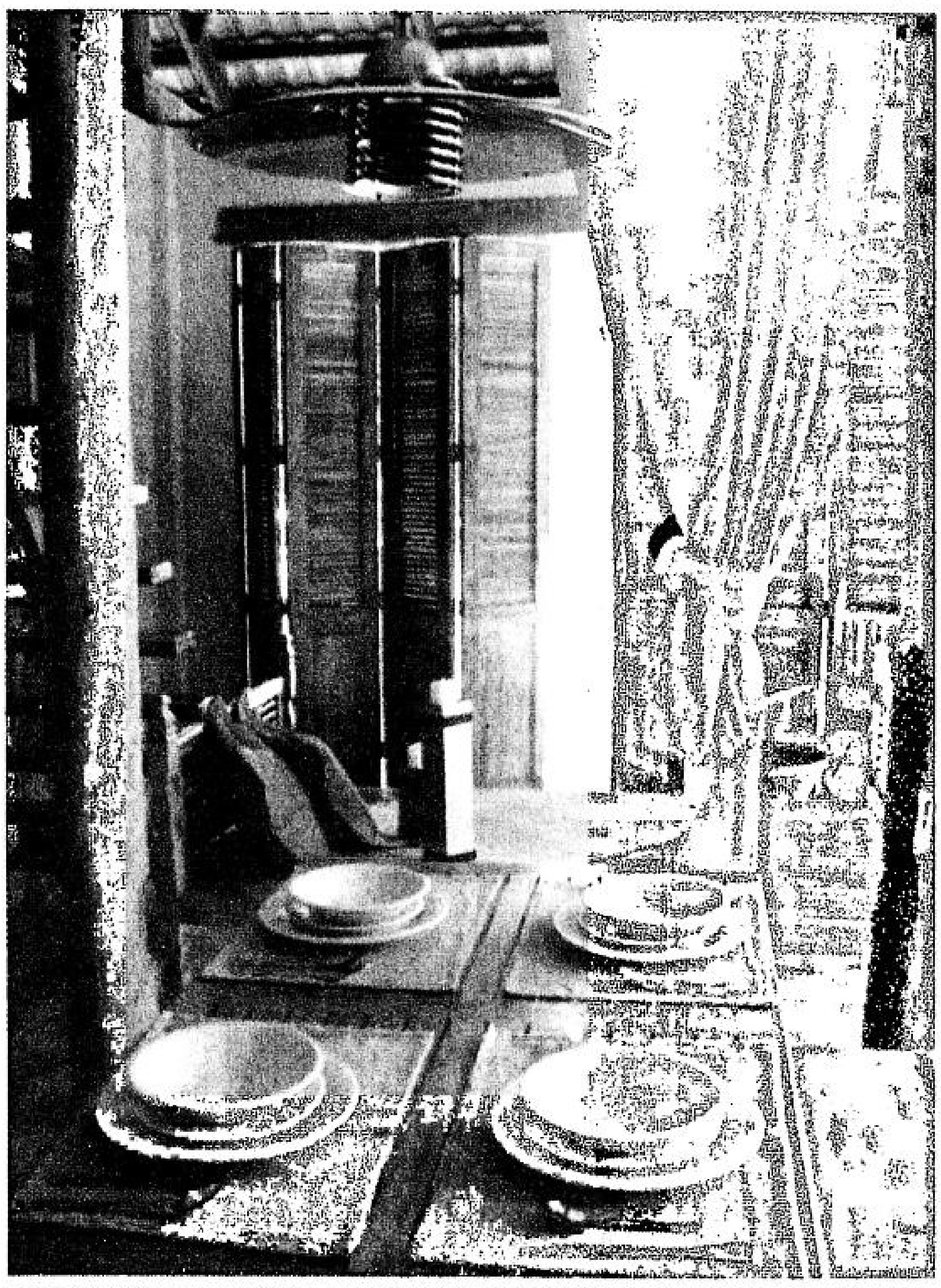
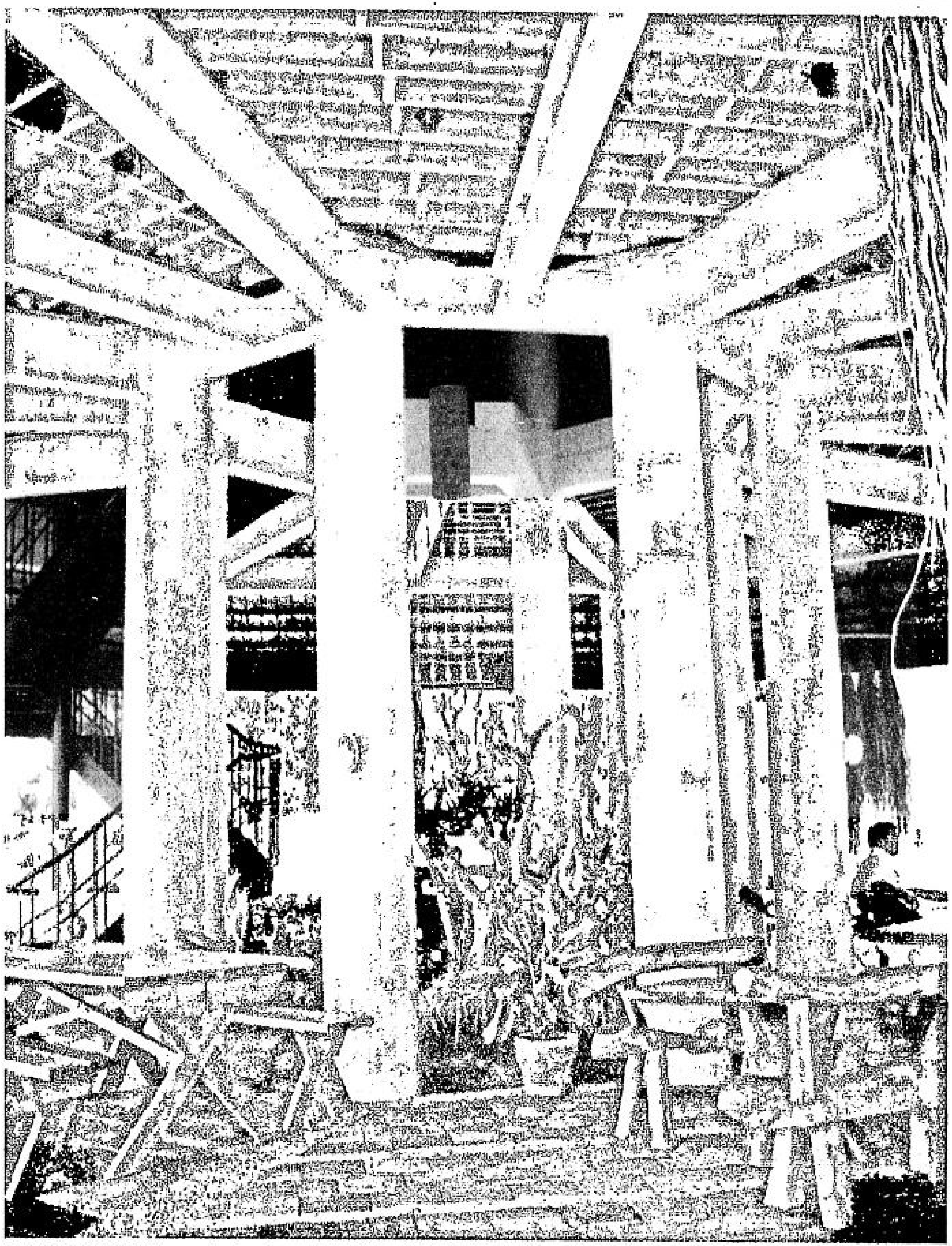
Lakeside homes get a dash of resort ambience

(From page E3)

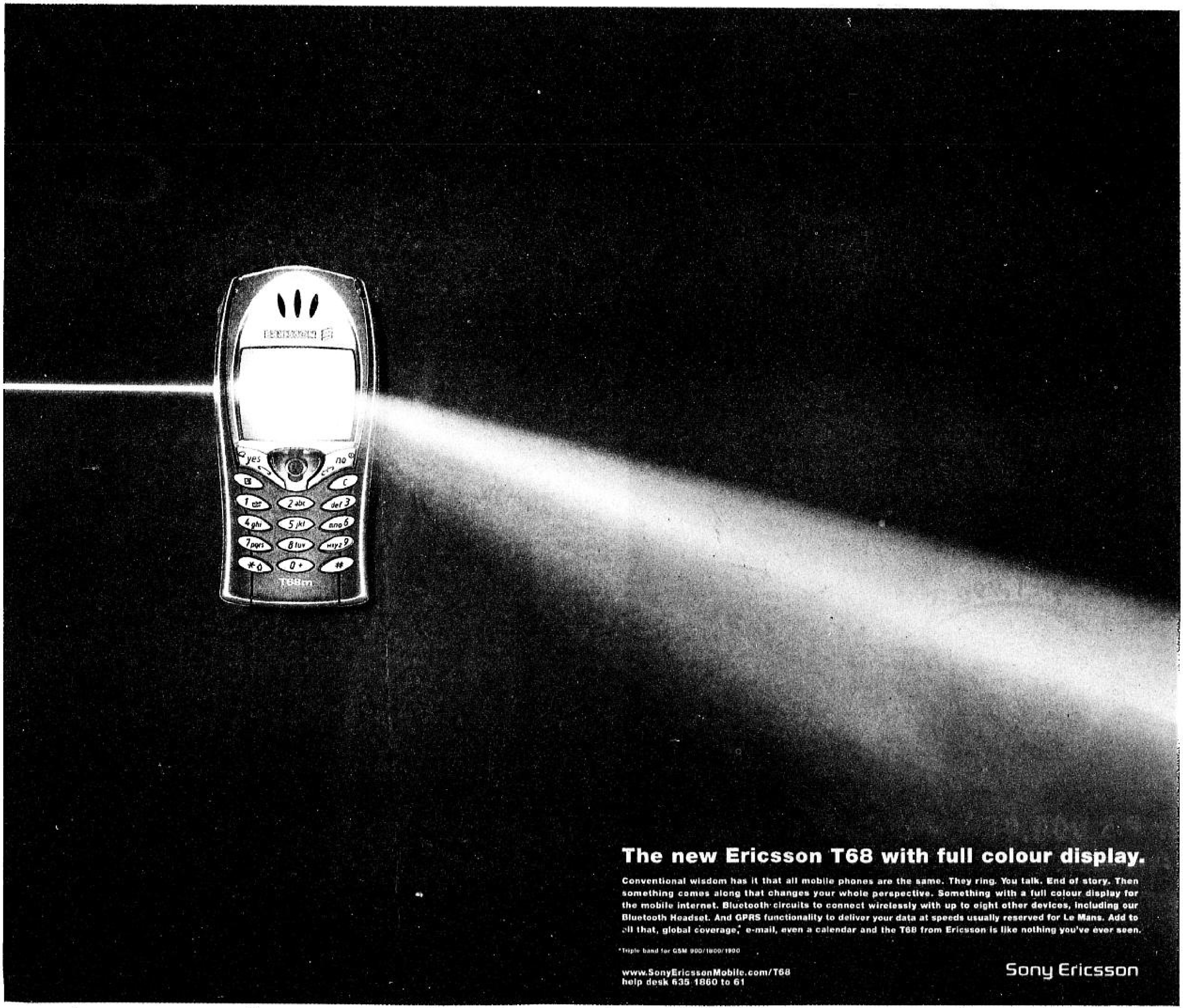
LAKESIDE/p.E7



TRADITIONAL INSPIRATION. A swathe of indigenous fabric defines the dining from the living space. Wooden shutters separate the outdoor porch.



THE CLUBHOUSE nearby is decorated with a few Ernest Santiago accents, metal lamps inspired by *pastillas* wrappers from bygone days. Rustic forms are echoed in the *molave* furniture arranged picnic style.



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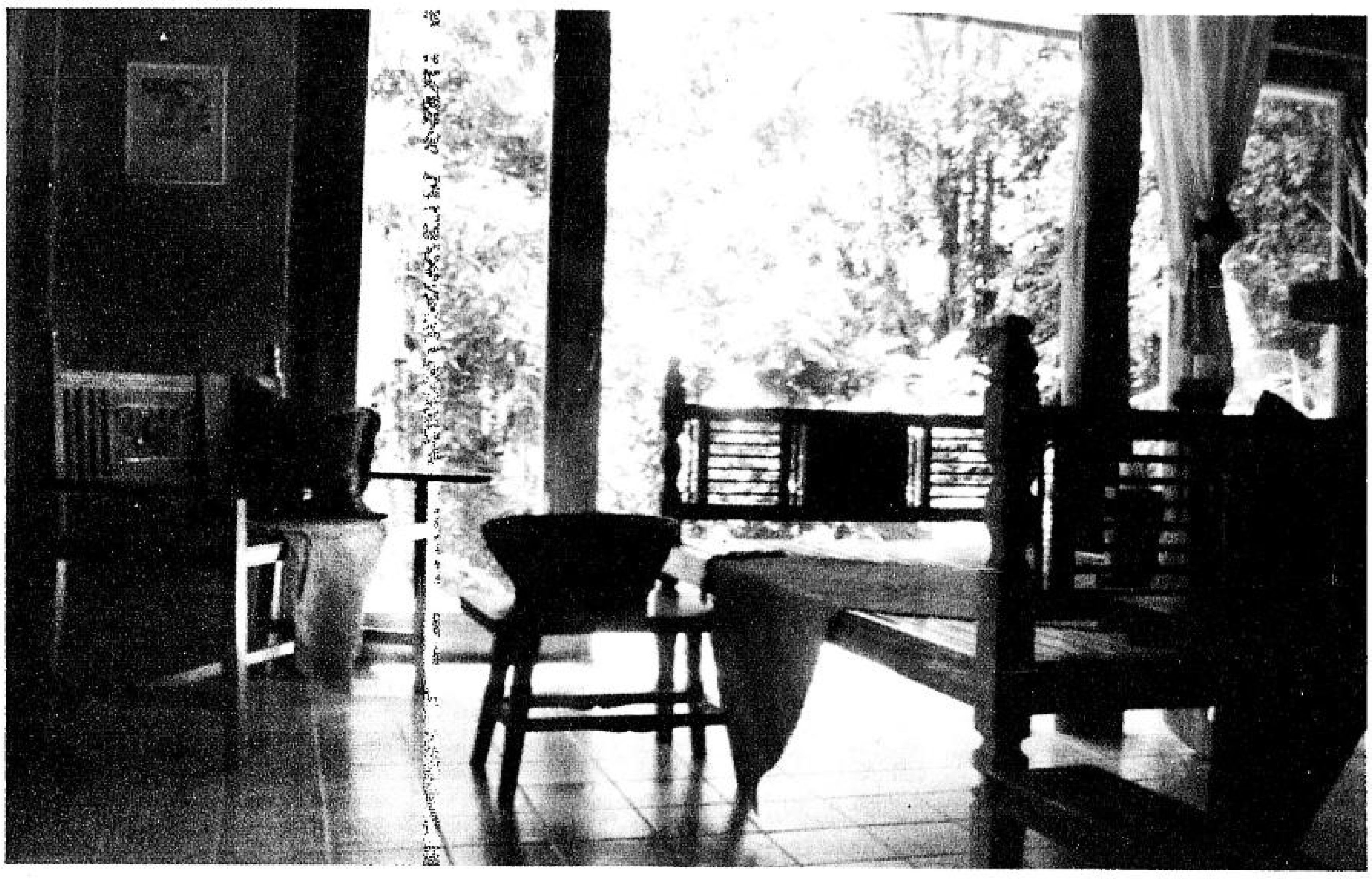
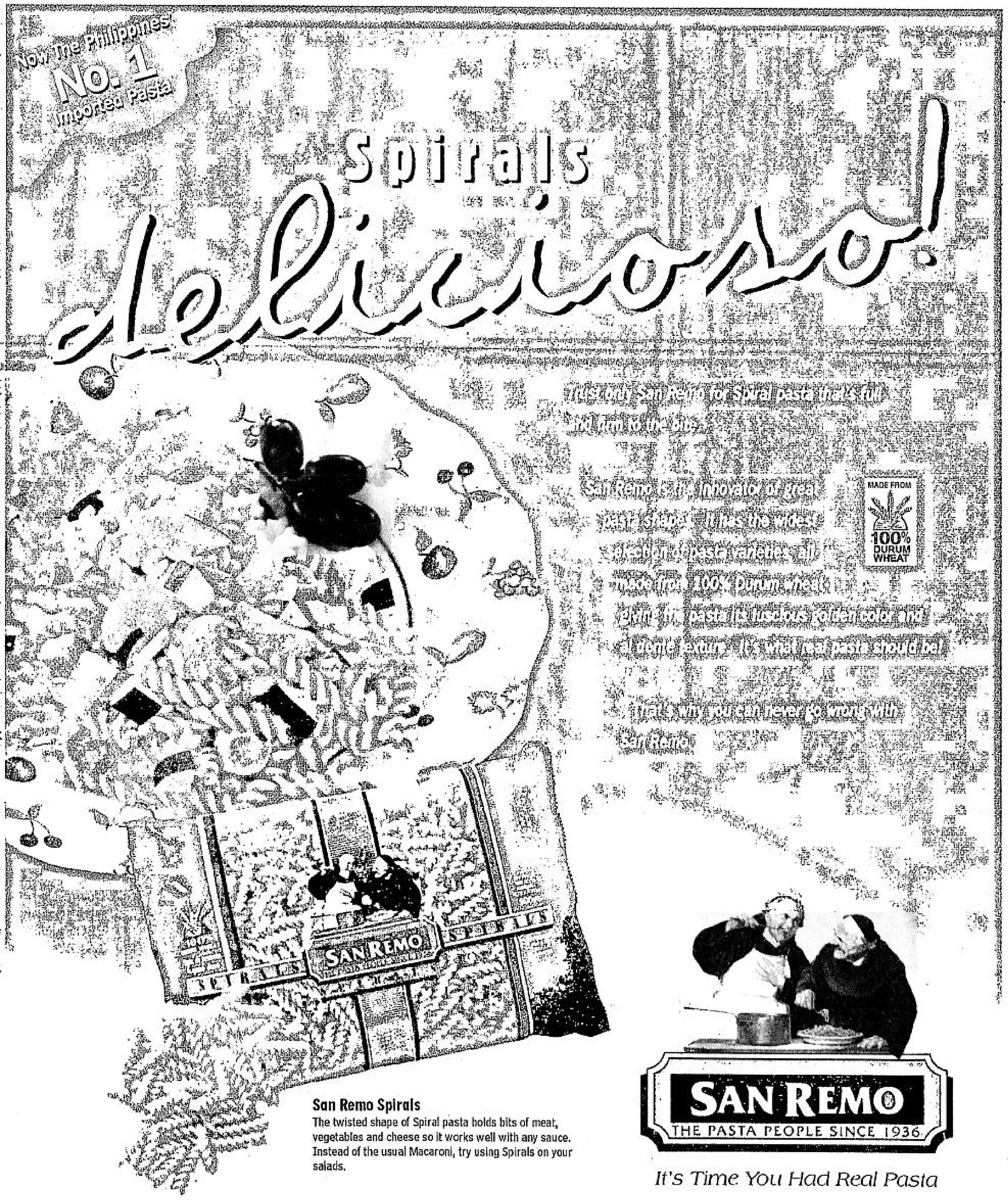
Lakeside homes get a dash of resort ambience



(From page E6)

THE LIVING area welcomes with a daybed inspired by the Java bench. Filipino fabrics soften the straight forms in wood and glass. All furniture by Ernest Santiago. The sliding doors frame an engaging view of the woods nearby.

LAKESIDE/ p.E8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SAN REMO
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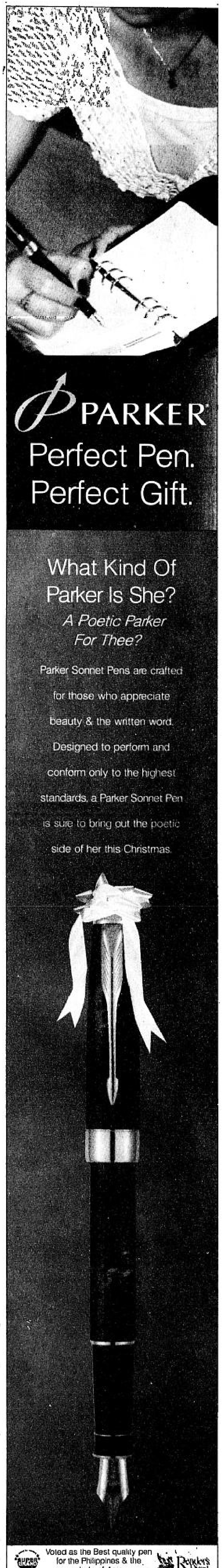
It's Time You Had Real Pasta

Featured Recipe: FRUITY CHICKEN SALAD

INGREDIENTS:
250g San Remo Spirals
2 cups chicken, cooked and cubed
5 stalks celery, sliced
2 red apples, cubed
1 cup seedless grapes, halved
2 cups pineapple tidbits, drained
1 cup mandarin oranges, drained
3/4 cup mayonnaise
2 tbsp. milk
1 tbsp. sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
dash of ground black pepper
dash of ground nutmeg

PROCEDURE
1. Cook pasta according to package directions. Chill with cooked chicken.
2. Mix chicken, celery, apples, grapes, pineapple, mandarin oranges and pasta in large bowl.
3. Mix mayonnaise, milk, sugar, salt, a dash of pepper and a dash of nutmeg.
4. Combine mayonnaise and chicken mixtures and toss. Serve chilled.

For more exciting and appetizing recipes log on to www.san-remo.com.au or e-mail us at sysumktg@info.com.ph



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Lakeside homes get a dash of resort ambience

THE DINING-KITCHEN area is an intimate space set with the glazes of terra-cotta. The colors of the earth, russet, camel and browns, provide warmth and go well with the wooden dining table and benches. Clay jars brighten up small corners.

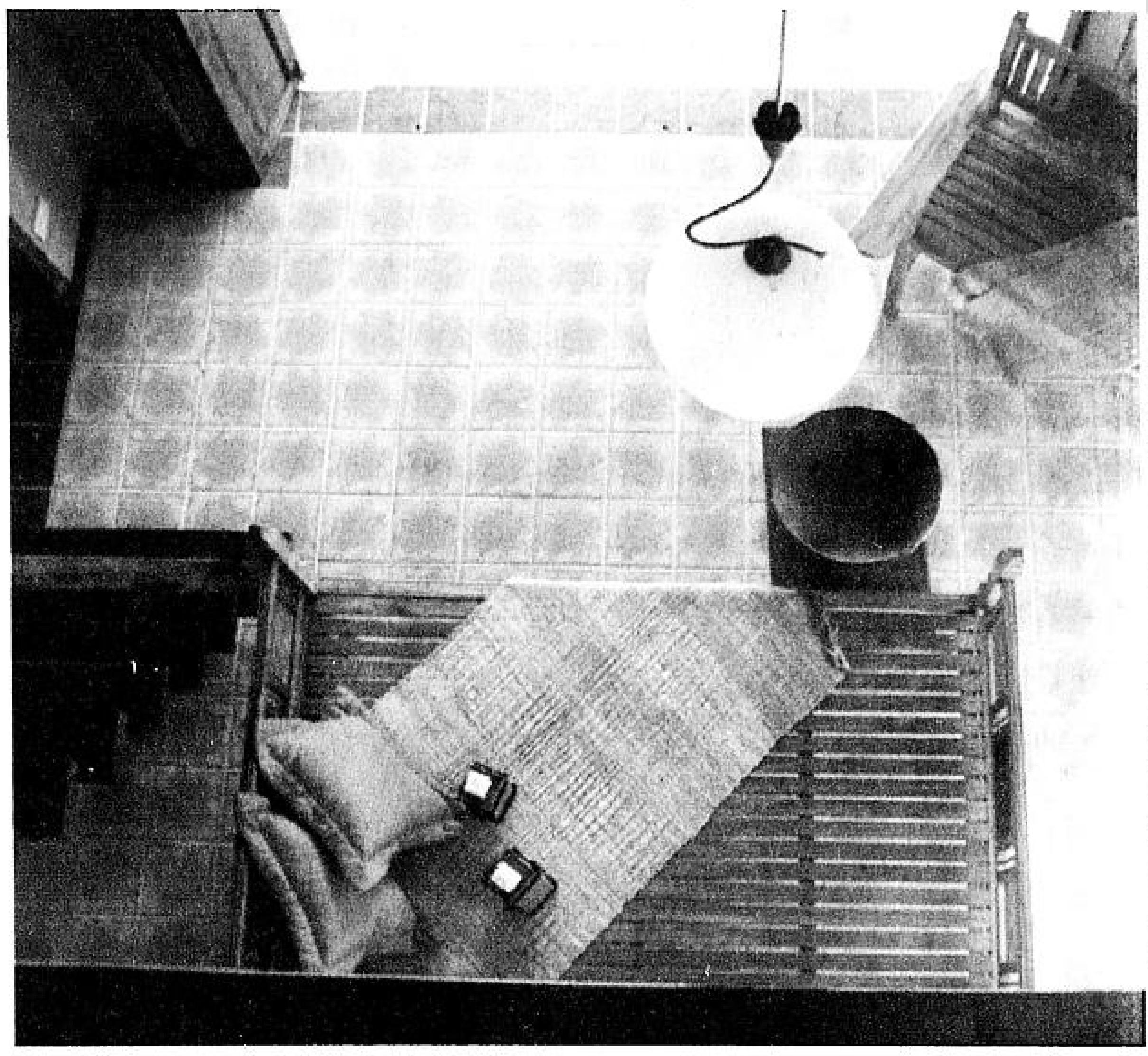
(From page E7)

With constantly evolving design ideas, he is really imbued with the al fresco design spirit, merging Asian and Filipino influences with genuine flair. Designing with lush landscape, naturally ventilated spaces and traditional, homegrown materials is his comfort zone as a decorator and stylist. The sculptor filled wood and stone with fine detail, reflecting the finest of Laguna craftsmanship.

Lakeside Farms thus brings a lifestyle concept that is suitable for couples who have worked for decades in the city and suffered from stress and pollution. It is also ideal as a secluded weekend retreat, blending unpretentious landscapes with provincial flavor. With majestic views of the mountains, clean fresh air and simple but stylish settings, this development has captured the calm splendor to meet a need not just for shelter but for a reconnection with the great outdoors.

Information on Lakeside Farms can be obtained through Imperial Homes, tel. 807-8405 and 842-3671. Ask for Sarah.

E-mail the author at cnolido@aimonline.org



A VIEW FROM THE LOFT. The stairs to the loft use little space as they merge with the tiled flooring below. Just bring in what is necessary, inject personal style and avoid the clutter of over-decoration. The majestic views outside are more than enough.

He may not hear a thing you say.
But he'll remember exactly what you wore.
BCBG
BAZAR DE CHRISTIAN LACROIX
WHISTLES
DIANE VON FURSTENBERG
TAHARI
TESSUTO
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EASEL
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SPAGHETTI & CO.
Rustan's

A well-attended Xmas bazaar

NOEL Christmas Bazaar took place in full festivity at the Manila Polo Club in October.

"The bazaar proved to be a great fulfillment and a worthwhile cause for its beneficiary, Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation. We believe that even with the simultaneous bazaars in the metropolis, Noel in Manila Polo Club generated the largest number of shoppers for our hundreds of participating entrepreneurs," said Mayose G. Bautista, project director.

Seen shopping at the bazaar was model and TV personality Angel Jacob. Items that were sold were those of Cathy Castañeda, Eliza Bautista and Pinky Marquez,, who presented their collections of candles, soaps and crafts. Young entrepreneurs of NUI Design Clothing proved to be a crowd favorite. There was nothing fishy with the extraordinary wares of Kiss the Fish. Ana Roces took time out to shop. So did lawyer Felipe Gozon, GMA Network's president and CEO, and his wife Tessie. Also in the area was the metro's shopping icon Tessa Prieto-Valdez who visited the hundreds of product lines. Actress Rachel Lobangco enjoyed the trinkets of Buena Mano. Carmina Villaroel and sisters were found enjoying a weekend of shopping. Imelda Ilacad was also present.

The next set of series, Christmas@2001 Shop Expo, awaits shoppers at the Hall C of the World Trade Center Dec. 1-2. This two-day weekend is also dedicated to 116 martyrs and heroes, who were proclaimed by the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation.

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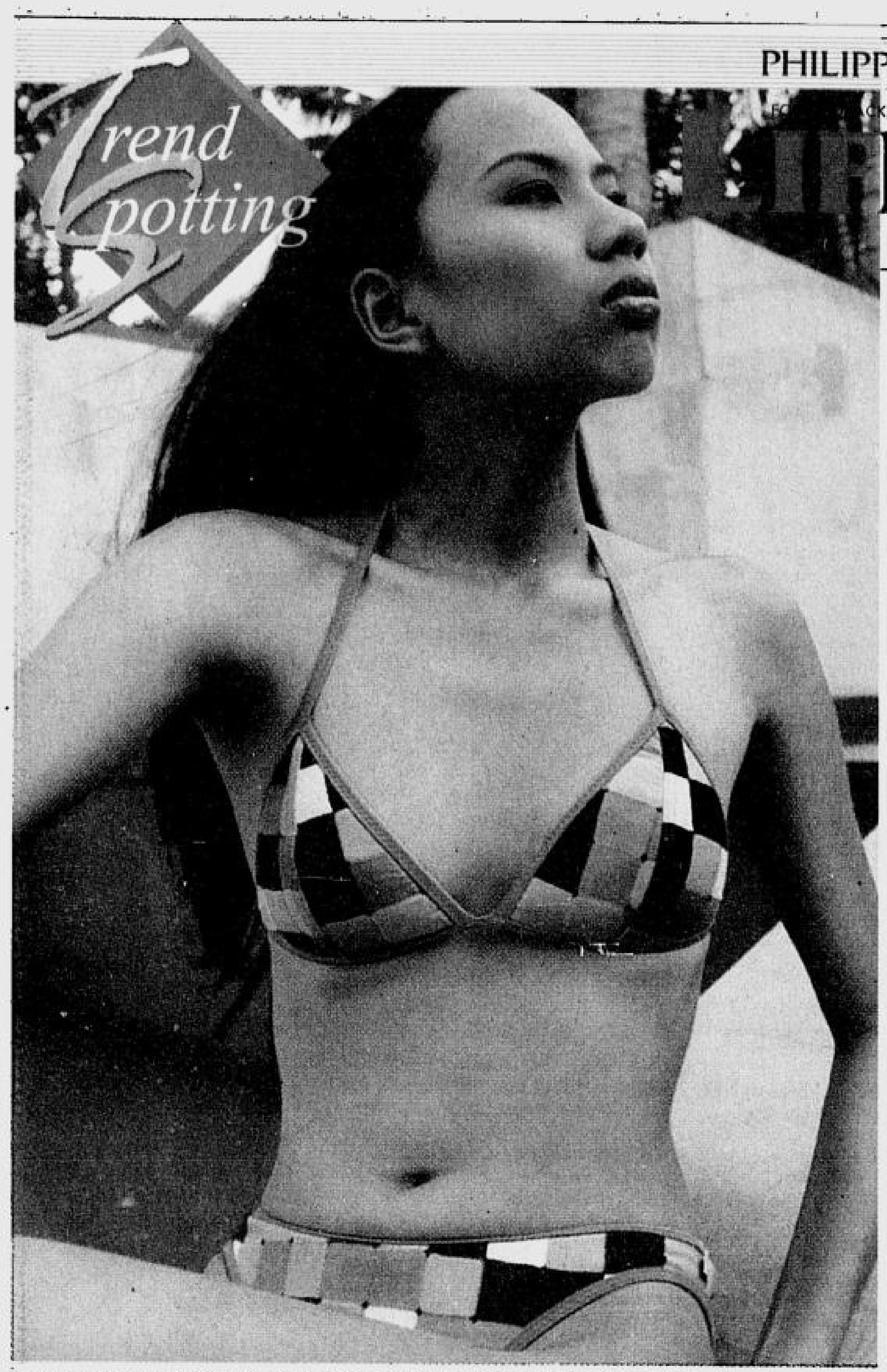

OUR Supermodel 2001, models this Wahini bikini from Tabu Speacialty Store in Greenbelt Shopping Plaza

Rampage on the ramp

Possessed with a warrior's spirit and a childlike spirituality, Marjay Ramirez is, at 15, a model in her own book

(Story on page F7)

Wearing makeup means healthy skin

(Story on page F2)

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3356 Series of 2001

Wearing makeup means healthy skin

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Patrick Uy

TO START the new millennium, Shiseido, the world's fourth largest beauty company, revamped its cosmetic line and called it Shiseido the Makeup while its personal care line is called Shiseido the Skin Care. In the past, Serge Lutens served as the creative director for its makeup. This time the company has commissioned Tom Pecheux who is famous in the fashion circuit. Lutens will have his own fragrance and makeup line.

Shiseido the Makeup boasts of advance technology in its formulation. Each product contains a Multi-Nutrient Factor that contains a botanical water-holding oil for moisture, amino acids for softening the skin and Vitamin E derivative for an energizing effect.

It boasts of the Advanced Luminous Technology that balances the skin color with prismatic effects of light. The special powders in the formulation control the light's color in the skin as the light hits the face. Flawless skin results instead of opaque color. Other foundations and powders emphasize large pores and fine lines as light reflects the skin's surface. Shiseido's formula enables the light to reflect from within the skin and transmits information to the hemoglobin and melanin which consume the light. These play a big role in how the skin tone appears to the eye.

The Micromatic Color Pigments guarantee color-true, long wearing lipstick. It has a generous coating of silicone mixed with the color pigments to keep the color evenly distributed. The silicone also hinders pigments from mixing with sebum, which means color remains healthy.

RISSA models Shiseido's high-end makeup, Inoui. She wears this necklace with onyx and earrings, both made of 18K white gold with diamonds.

Japanese culture

In the Philippines Shiseido was introduced in 1990 through another company. In the 1990s it became the No. 1 cosmetic brand because of its wide distribution network, generating sales of P38 million pesos. Today Shiseido is handled by a new partner, LuxAsia. The first counter in Landmark will open at the end of November. The free-standing store will open at Glorietta in December. Plans are afoot to open outlets in Shoemart.

Shiseido's approach to beauty is firmly rooted in its Japanese heritage. The name itself means "praise the virtues of the earth, which nurtures new life and brings forth new values." This resonates in its corporate culture: it is a precursor in integrating Eastern sensibilities with Western science and business savvy.

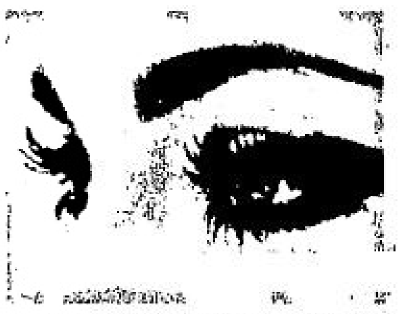
Saho, loosely translated as gentle attitude or interaction with others, is reflected in everything Shiseido—from the formulation of its products to the packaging and customer service.

"Other companies have tried to copy our concepts, but they can't imitate our spirit. It takes time to understand *saho*. With the Filipino team, we take time to train them so they can understand this spirit," said Saburo Wakayama, president of Shiseido Asia Pacific.

He added that everything in the company is likened to the tea ceremony, from the preparation to the presentation.

"In the tea ceremony, everything is done slowly and smoothly and is offered to the drinker with great care. In this way, the drinker feels relaxed when he takes it," said Wakayama.

"Shiseido gives each customer the feeling that each is important. One example is our practice of carrying the purchased item with both hands, and passing it to the customer with tenderness. Shiseido's spirit of hospitality is practiced as part of the stores' daily activity."



AVANT-GARDE. The eyebrow is filled with deep brown powder. The brows are extended outward at the end through a deep brown pencil. Dark eye shadow is applied from the inner corner of the eye to 1/3 of the way along the lid. A vertical line is drawn at the end of the shadow. The same color is applied to the outer corner of the upper lid, parallel to the browline. The bottom lid is endowed with dark shadow. An angled brush defines the center lines and the outer edges of the eye shadow at the outer corner of the eye. Light color fills the center of the upper lid and below the brow for contour. The eyes are lined with black.

CLASSIC. The face is framed with natural red blush that is softly blended along the cheekbones for highlight. The eyebrows are colored with deep brown. For the eyes, the violet color is applied two-thirds on the upper lid. Brown is placed on the outer corner of the upper lid and a third of the way along the lower lid. Taupe is used to line the eyes. The lips are lined with mauve brown and colored with rose. Olen models this yellow-gold 18-disc Bvlgari necklace and bracelet as seen in this month's issue of In Style.

HAIR AND MAKEUP
HENRY CALAYAG OF H SALON
JEWELRY: BVLGARI'S LUCEA
COLLECTION AVAILABLE
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MODELS:
OLEN LIM,
RISSA SAMSON

TRENDY. Rose blusher is applied high on the cheekbones and blended in circular motions. Use duo tones such as green and pink. Dark color is applied to the inner corner of the lid, then outward along the crease, leaving the center of the lid uncolored. Color the outer corner and blend well to accentuate the roundness of the eye. Take up the light color and blend in the center of the lid and lightly below the blush to finish. The lips are in pink cinnamon. Rissa wears the yellow-gold 18K necklace with garnet and the yellow-gold necklace with round disc.

MODIFIED AVANT-GARDE. Dramatic eyebrows and green shadow are complemented by pink blush, blended along the cheekbones and pink lipstick. Olen models this 18K white gold necklace with blue topaz and diamonds with long earrings similar to the style modeled by Giselle Bundchen's ads.

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Designing for real women

"I LOVE dressing up real women." For clothes artist Nono Palmos, such declaration is like a mantra. Countless interviews reveal the designer's fascination for today's breed of working women and indeed his atelier has gained prominence as a fashion hub for a wide-ranging variety of women from the corporate world.

"Women who make a living while still playing the traditional roles of mother and wife inspire me no end," Palmos says. "Their various responsibilities, their conflicting undertakings and the demands of their family and career life present an invariable challenge to my creativity. Essentially, I have to create wardrobes for them that will be able to give them minimal fuss but maximum versatility."

The fascination was made even more manifest in "Nono Palmos Holiday Collection 2001," held recently at the Asian Development Bard Auditorium. Produced by the ADB Spouses Association (ADBSA), the invitational affair served as one of the association's key fund-raising events to benefit numerous children and women's charity organizations and fund scholarships in the region. "It's my way of sharing all the blessings I've had," Nono says. "I certainly believe in the charity programs of the ADB Spouses Association and this is my way of giving them support and offering my humble share."

His "humble share" was a spectacular 40-piece collection worn by the members of the ADBSA themselves. The fashion show, a successful presentation of the fragmented lives of today's working women, was divided in four essential parts covering the diverse roles these women juggle: work, resort, travel, cocktail and evening.

For the work collection, Nono presented a line of classically tailored suits in gray and black with linings of lush jewel tones. He made use of wittily placed slits on the skirt, pants and jackets. Flashes of ruby, turquoise and jade appeared only when the models moved.

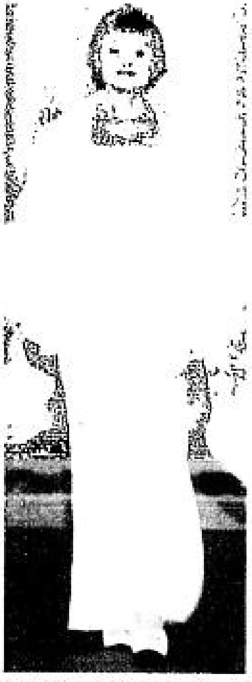
Resort

The resort wear, on the other hand, presented a visual and architectural contrast to the work wear. Fashioned from linen, the resort collection featured loosely cut components in white, spray-painted with graphic floral patterns in sea blue.

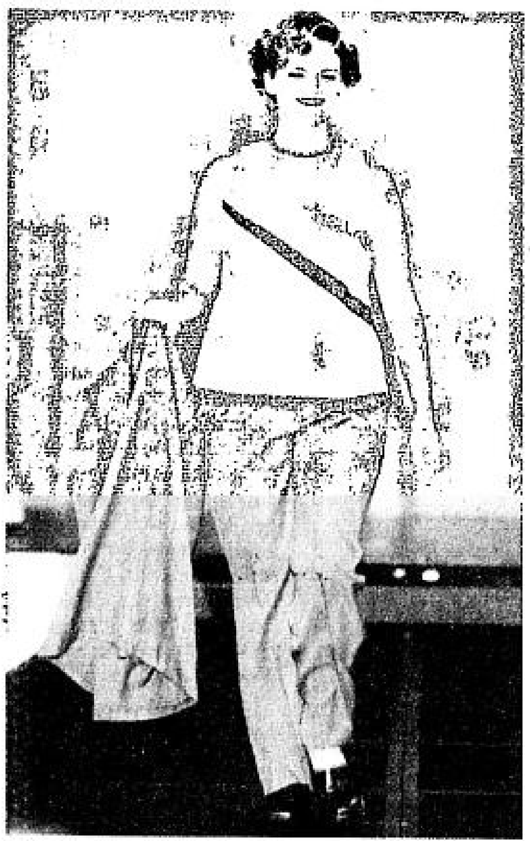
While the designer's signature tailoring reappeared in the travel collection, the cut was more leisurely with the components designed for optimum movement and activity. Cut loose for comfort, jackets, skirts and pants came in the less formal shades of camel and beige with deeply colored inner blouses for tonal accent. Diagonally cut patchwork complementing the colors appeared as playful adornments in a number of inner blouses.

The designer's knack for subtle beadwork was evidently at work in the cocktail collection. Designed for after-office functions, the collection echoed a mood of celebration with the use of opulent jewel-colored fabrics. Fluidity in construction was Nono's creative handle on the stunning evening pieces.

Ever cautious lest he overdecorate his clothes, Nono wisely opted to create a collection that heralded his hallmark talent in construction. For the evening segment, he created softly cascading gowns in pure silk with none of the hackneyed beadwork and embellishment associated with evening gowns. The finale, an obvious tribute to the native hablon fabric, featured three asymmetrically cut gowns in black, brick red and ice white. Here, beadwork was used only to highlight the fabric's natural weave and to achieve a delicate sparkle.



MARINA Kregman of Germany (resort)



LORI Severenz of USA (travel)

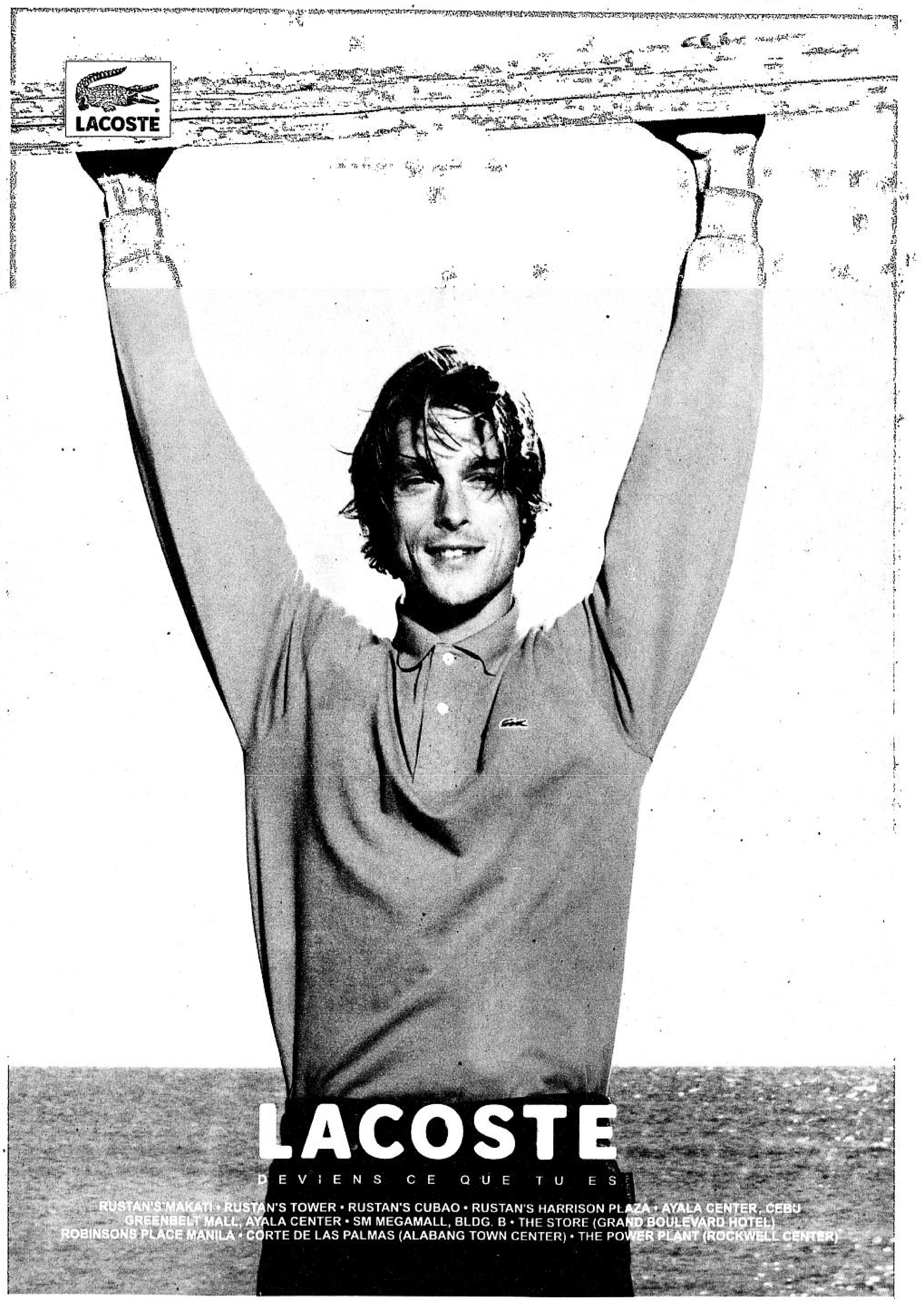
True highlight

While most fashion presentations capitalize on the interplay of embellishment and lighting effects to achieve visual spectacle, Nono refused to resort to fanfare and insisted on making his clothes the highlight of the show. He presented not just a spectacle of colors, fabrics and silhouettes to showcase his creativity, but paid tribute to his favored muse: the real woman. With real women as his mannequins, he deftly tailored each piece based on the wearer's personality, taking into consideration her physical, racial and at times religious limitations.

Ultimately, it is the opinion of these women that matters most to Nono. Helen Pappas, ADBSA president, said Palmos "designed his collection around the realities and needs of these diverse women. With expert tailoring and beautiful fabrics, he accentuated the assets and minimizes the flaws that each woman has. Each piece reflected the personality of the wearer, and her desires and priorities. It is a collection for the woman of today."

> Nono Palmos tailors each piece according to the wearer's personality, making room for her physical, racial and at times religious limitations

NONO Palmos with the ADB president's wife



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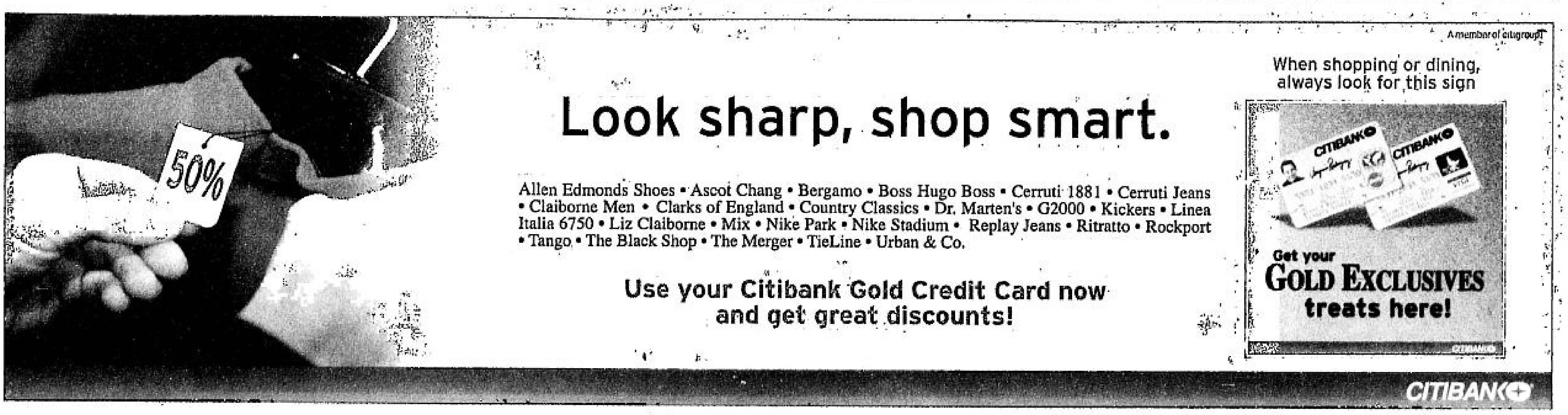

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How to manage anger

WHAT causes anger?

Whatever the cause, even a single word spoken in anger can leave an impression on a person's heart that may remain for a long time, and has the ability to ruin the beauty of any relationship.

A famous sage once said, "How can there be peace on earth, if the hearts of men are like volcanoes?" If within the person there can be peace and freedom from anger, only then can the person live in harmony with others. So how can we set about creating that sense of peace within ourselves?

It starts with the realization that we do have the choice to think and feel the way we want to. If we look at what it is that makes us angry, we may discover there is nothing that has the power to make us feel this way. We can only allow something to trigger our anger—the anger is how we respond to some event or somebody. But because we are so used to reacting on impulse, we forget to choose how we want to feel, and then respond inappropriately, leaving ourselves with angry feelings.

Have you ever heard someone saying, "I really hate it when you speak like that to me"? Or how about, "How many times do I have to tell you to do it like this?" We can never control circumstances, people or situations, as they are constantly changing. The only thing we can control is the way we choose to respond.

> Anger is a sign of slavery. Conquer anger and you conquer yourself

Modern-day life comes with a whole host of challenges. In facing these we have come to see every interaction within our world as part of one large drama or game. And within this drama, every single individual has his or her unique part to play, which is essentially an expression of the inner self. As we come to accept this, rather than spending time keeping an eye on what others are doing, we can begin to use our energy to play our own part to the best of our ability.

Practice the understanding that regardless of whatever action a person may be doing, there is some reason he or she is behaving in that way. Therefore we should try not to jump to conclusions too easily; and rather than trying to control another person's behavior.

So what is so wrong in judging other people's actions? There is a danger that if we become too concerned with their activity, we may begin to feel anger toward them, which may lead to dislike for them. We put them into some kind of a box and fix a label on them. Then whenever we come into contact with them, we will see them in the light of their past mistakes. But in doing this, we are effectively imprisoning them in their past actions. However, if we allow them the dignity of actually growing out of their own mistakes—if our vision allows them to do that—then, sooner or later, it is possible for them to change.

This concept of life being a drama can help us detach ourselves from what's happening around us, and this detachment or space is of great help in learning not to make judgments so quickly about others. If we create a small space, a healthy space between ourselves and the drama of life, we find that that space acts like a buffer.

Nature

There was an old man who was sitting by a river and talking to a group of his disciples. His hand was stretched out behind him and an insect came crawling along and bit him badly. As it did so, it slipped and fell into the river. This old man looked behind him and saw the insect struggling in the river, so he picked it up and placed it back on the ground.

A few minutes later, the same insect crawled over to his hand and bit him on the finger, and again slipped over and fell into the river. The old man looked round, picked it up and placed it back on the ground. When this happened a third time, one of his disciples said to him, "Master, why do you do this? The insect bites you and yet you save it. Why do you not let it drown and then it won't be able to bite you?"

He replied, "It is in the insect's nature to bite; it is in my nature to save."

Similarly, someone's nature might be to criticize or to backbite or even to challenge us. Yet that is completely out of our hands. We can only do what it is that we have to do. We can't justify a negative action by saying, "Oh, well, you do the same thing, too." If we say that, then we are saying, "I will only grow and change when you decide to grow and change, it's in your hands." But can growth ever happen like that? If we wait for each other to change, it is likely that we will be waiting an extremely long time.

Sometimes anger is used as a kind of self-defense mechanism, a sentry guard standing outside the fortress walls of our inner selves. When anybody tries to attack or criticize us, anger pops up and demands, "Who do you think you are? Look at you!" Anger reacts.

Anger is the emotion that tries to hold all the other illusions together. If anyone tries to attack what we believe in or care about, anger comes out to lash back. This is an example of using anger to protect our simulated self, our sense of ego. However, by recognizing ourselves as spiritual beings, and through the awareness and experience of the beauty of our true nature, our dependency on other people's approval reduces as we rediscover an inner stillness and stability. Thus the need for anger as our protector is eliminated.

Choice

There is a particular story about Buddha that illustrates an important principle. Buddha was under the tree of enlightenment when someone who had heard that the Buddha was an enlightened person came along to test his self-control. He came in front of Buddha and started swearing at him, calling him all the names under the sun and yet there was no reaction.

Some time later, this person got a bit tired so he went off and had a rest and came back and had a second go. He abused the Buddha's family and hurled every insult he could think of, but there was still no reaction. He, grew very tired and so asked Buddha, "I am defaming you every way I can think of, and yet you do not say anything back at me."

Buddha looked up at him and said, "If someone gives you a gift, but you don't accept it, then whom is the gift left with?"

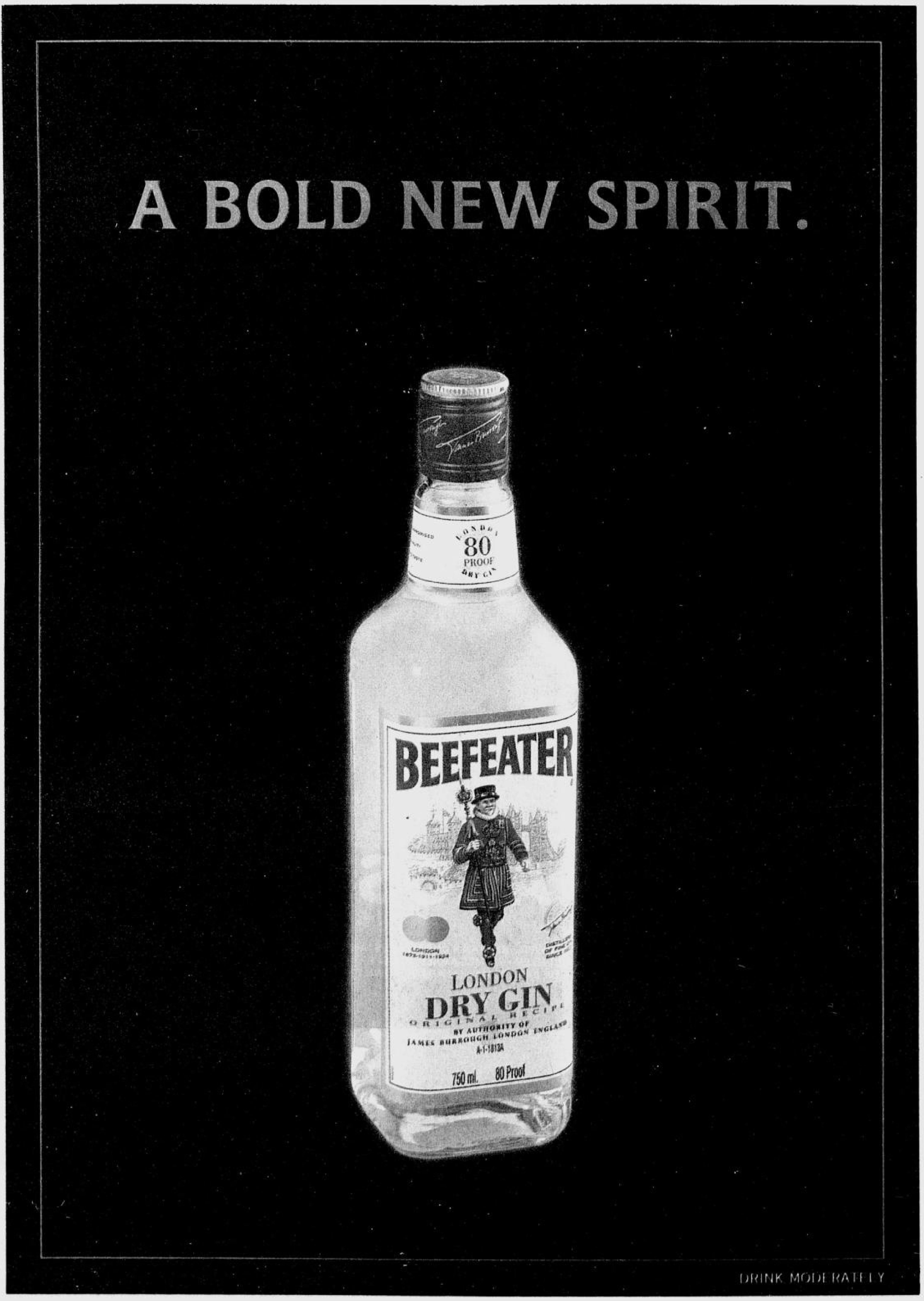
This highlights a crucial insight. We have a choice. If we have taken sorrow from someone, we cannot blame the other person and say, "It's your fault, you spoke to me like this." We recognize that we do have a choice in every moment. We can use our intellect as a filter to decide what we are going to allow to enter and what we are going to prevent from coming inside and affecting us.

Broadly speaking, there are two methods that people suggest one should try to deal with anger. Some say if you're feeling angry, then be angry as a way of expression—let it out. And indeed, at that moment we do become free from the anger, because we have let it out. However, as we deepen our understanding and experience of the way in which our consciousness works, we realize that the more we do something, the deeper that habit becomes. So tomorrow we will find it easier to become angry because we have already done it today.

Another suggestion people might make is that you should suppress anger. If you feel yourself getting angry, stop yourself, suppress it. But this is the pressure cooker situation. You just get more and more heated up inside until you explode.

Third way

But there is a third method, which can be described as sublimation or the changing of form. Through the daily experience of our own inner peace can become very natural. In this way, just as the form of water can be changed from solid to liquid to gas, so, too, the energy that was previously being used to express and feed anger, can also be changed to the force behind the expression of determination or courage instead. Rather than being angry with someone to prove a point, we can learn to be assertive. Assertiveness contains respect for ourselves, whereas anger shows respect for neither. Only by ridding ourselves of anger can we become free to experience the peace of our true spiritual nature.



Estranged dad rejoins family

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I just turned 15. When I was only 3, my mom and dad broke up. According to the stories I heard, they split up because Dad could not stand Mom's boasting that she could earn more money than him.

After they separated, Mom raised my elder siblings and me by herself. She's hardworking and is successful in her career. I'm often the envy of classmates because I'd have the newest toys and dresses, and I'd come to school with our driver and my own *yaya*. As far as I know, we never got a single centavo from Dad, not even gifts for our birthdays. We used to see him on Christmas when I was younger.

Now I'm a high school senior and our family has started to drift apart. My eldest sister has a great job, and my brother is planning to stay abroad. We spend less time together. What makes matters worse is my mom is beginning to spend time with my dad again.

They are putting up a business together, so he now sees us almost daily. When I told my sister that I didn't like what's happening, she said that I was being selfish and childish, and I should be thankful instead because we could have our family back.

But I think my sister is wrong. I'm still young and I still need attention, especially from my busy mother, but not from my worthless father. Since I was young I never got the chance to talk to Mom and get to know her. When we get together, all we talk about is business, economy and money.

Tita, please help me. Now that my family's starting to be whole again, I think I'm the only person who's unhappy about it. Everytime we're together, I feel like a stranger among them. I know that I love my mom and my siblings, but I just can't take my dad back!

ADELE

They may not say it to you, but I'm sure they understand why you feel the way you do. After all, you grew up without him and did not feel a need for him, so there is little reason for you to miss him or to want him back. Also, he seems to be getting your mom's and siblings' attention when they already have so little left for you. You're jealous (your sister is right) and fearful of the competition your father poses for your family's attention. But you have good reasons.

Your view is valid: he is gatecrashing into your life. However, my dear, there are other valid views here. Since your parents' marriage was not annulled, he remains married to your mom. Besides, despite everything, he remains your and your sibling's father and you are still his family. So, as you can see, *hija*, he has not lost the right to be reunited with your family. That right is bolstered by your mom's and your siblings' acceptance of him.

It's obvious to everyone that you don't like him. But please remember, dear, that you feel that way only because you never had a chance to like him. That was largely his fault, of course. He could have continued seeing you then even after he separated from your mother.

All the same, that is all in the past, and it's useless to regret it. What matters more now is that your family has a chance to be whole again, and you and your father have a chance to love each other as parent and child. It was he who abandoned you so he owes it to you to work harder at that relationship. But your mom, your brother and your sisters—the people you have long loved and who love you back—apparently want him back. You owe it to them to give your father a chance. And you owe it, above all, to yourself, having been deprived of a father, to at least try to see what it is like having one now.

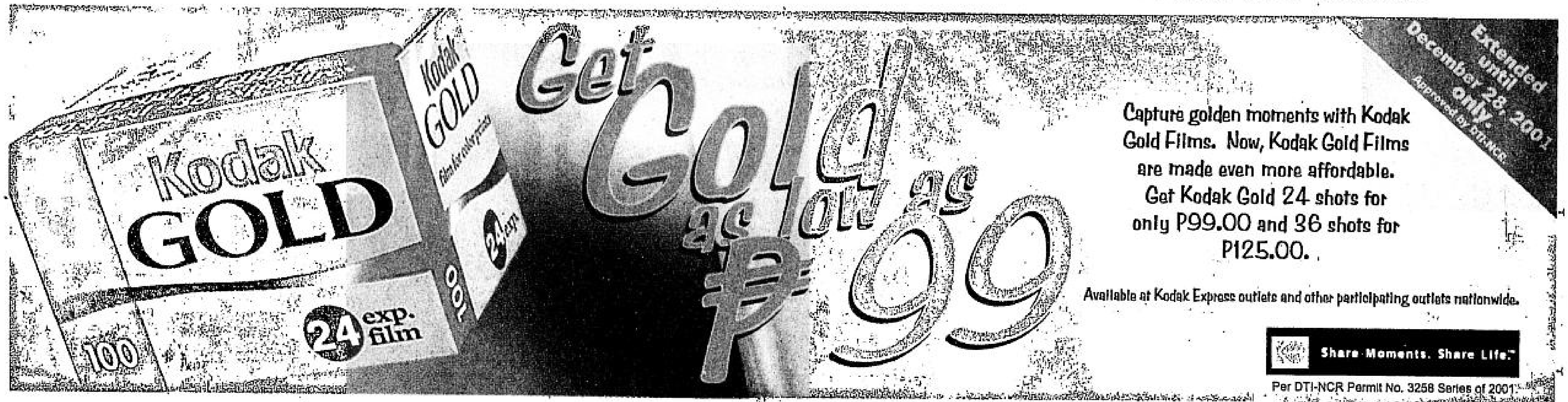
E-mail the author at titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.

Band as 'elastic' as namesake

WHY would a musical group want to name itself after something as commonplace as that elastic band you use to keep pencils or files together or even your hair from covering your eyes?

Chito Ilagan, bass player for Rubberband, says the reason is simple—it's *tres* fun. Snap it, stretch it, attach it to a cardboard box and strum it—whatever you do with it, it is bound to give some enjoyment to the player. Just like the band that "you can stretch… anywhere, in any direction, but it will go back to original, pure music and fun." Ilagan says of the band that started in 1996, "We used to play for fun, now we make sure the audience has fun."

Rubberband performs its high energy, no fuss-and-frills music at Manila Peninsula (Mondays); Siete Pecados (Tuesdays); National Sports Club (Fridays); and Audiotorium (Wednesdays and Saturdays).



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PLAY UP WITH CONTRASTS. Raya mixes textures with a soft pink layered top with faded jeans. Annette wears an off-the-shoulder stretch lace blouse with black crepe pants. Blushed cheeks, plum lips and soft curls give a romantic beauty edge.

Revenge of the frou-frou

After years of minimalism, frippery is on the comeback as designers recommend a play of opposites

PHOTOS BY WAHOO GUERRERO

FROU-FROU has been sparse after seasons of minimalism, military, punk and the butch chic. Weary of the hard-edged look, fashion returns to such feminine wiles as flower accents and girlie frocks. Such fanciful styles may help divert the pressures women feel every day.

This look dates back to the Romantic era from 1815-1840. As women's clothes became fussy and decorative, skirts became voluminous. Corseting returned, as did frilly petticoats. Women were stereotyped as fragile and decorative. The artists of this era valued emotion and sentiment, in contrast to the rational thinking of 18th century Enlightenment. Since women were thought to be more emotional than men, they were idealized as muses of artists.

The interest in feminine pulchritude started with the revival of the vintage clothes, particularly the granny frocks. This season, such designers as Oscar de la Renta and Tom Ford of Yves St. Laurent Rive Gauche are favoring lace, ruffles and gossamer, flirty skirts and off-the-shoulder tops.

Other key looks are floral and leaf prints, soft colors such as pink, mint and nude, layered chiffon dresses, loose blouses with frills, fluttery necklines and embroidered flowers, skirts with frilly hemlines, twin sets with tank straps, and short jackets.

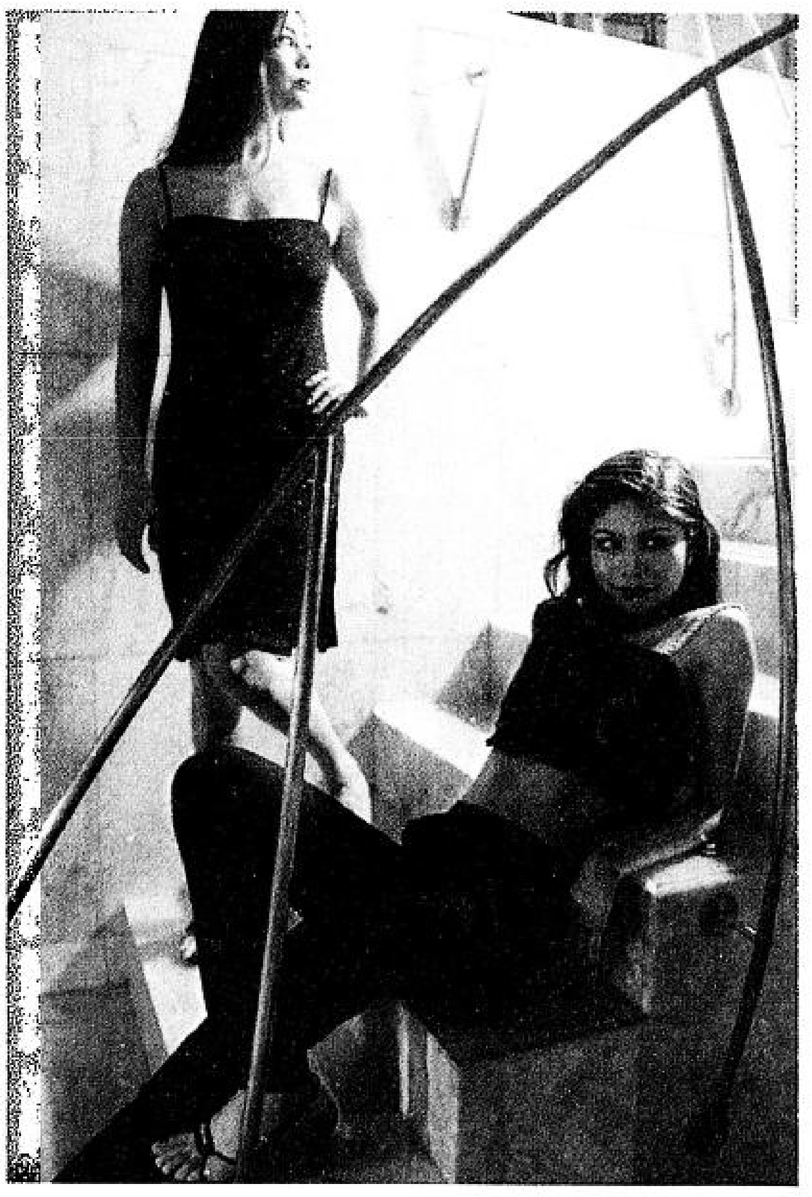
Fashion experts espouse an updating of romanticism by playing against opposites. Textures should be combined, like pairing soft blouses with tailored bottoms or jeans. Leather can go with lace, shine with matte, men's wear silhouettes and fabrics with anything frilly or luxurious. Wear a lacy blouse under a severe business suit or let a soft slip peek out of a coatdress. Complement ruffles and lace with a geometric cut and a clean face instead of blushed cheeks, full lips and curly hair.

In colder climates, wearing boots with soft ruffled dresses and skirts harks the American prairie style popularized by Ralph Lauren. Others espouse the midcalf booth with the granny dress or gypsy look.

Over the years designer Efren Ocampo of SM Boutique Square has remained steadfast in his style—combining practicality with femininity and subtle sexiness. Earlier in his career, he was known for glitter and bead work; lately, he has been going easy and soft. His collection for the INQUIRER pictorial is made for the woman who wants evening pieces that are effortless yet up-to-date.

This Romantic collection was set against a contemporary setting in Malate's new bistro, Fidel.

Marge C. Enriquez



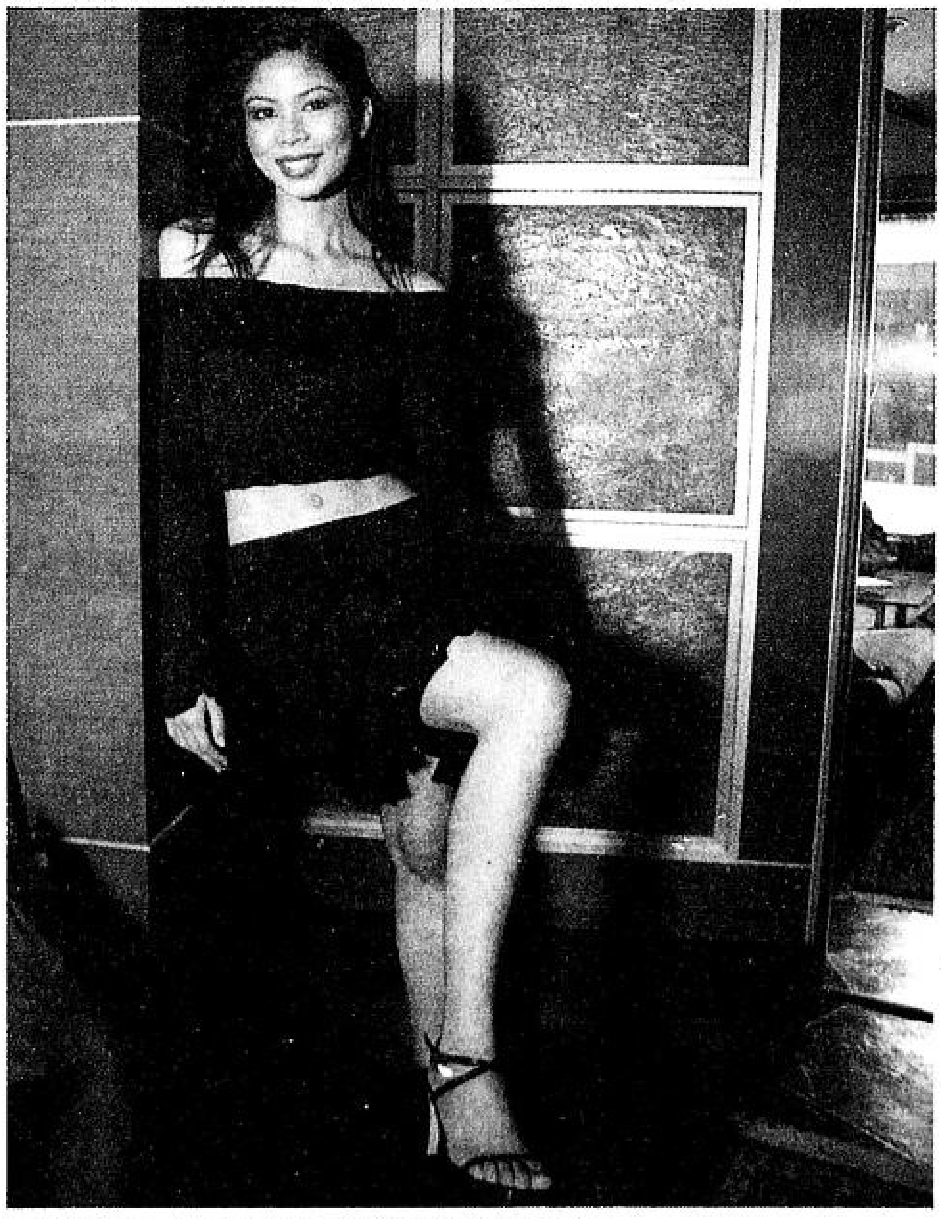
CLASSIC. Annete wears a sexy spandex dress while Raya is clad in an asymmetrical chiffon top with crepe pants.

MODELS:
RAYA MANANQUIL,
ANNETE CORONEL-CRUZ

HAIR AND MAKEUP
BY ERIC MANINGAT
SHOES MADE FOR INQUIRER BY FIGLIA
SPECIAL THANKS TO RICKY TOLEDO,
CHITO VIJANDRE,
MARKUS SCHMIDT
AND RICHARD DANAO
OF FIDEL RESTAURANT, MALATE

SEDUCTION in a spaghetti top made of chiffon and crepe and crepe pants.

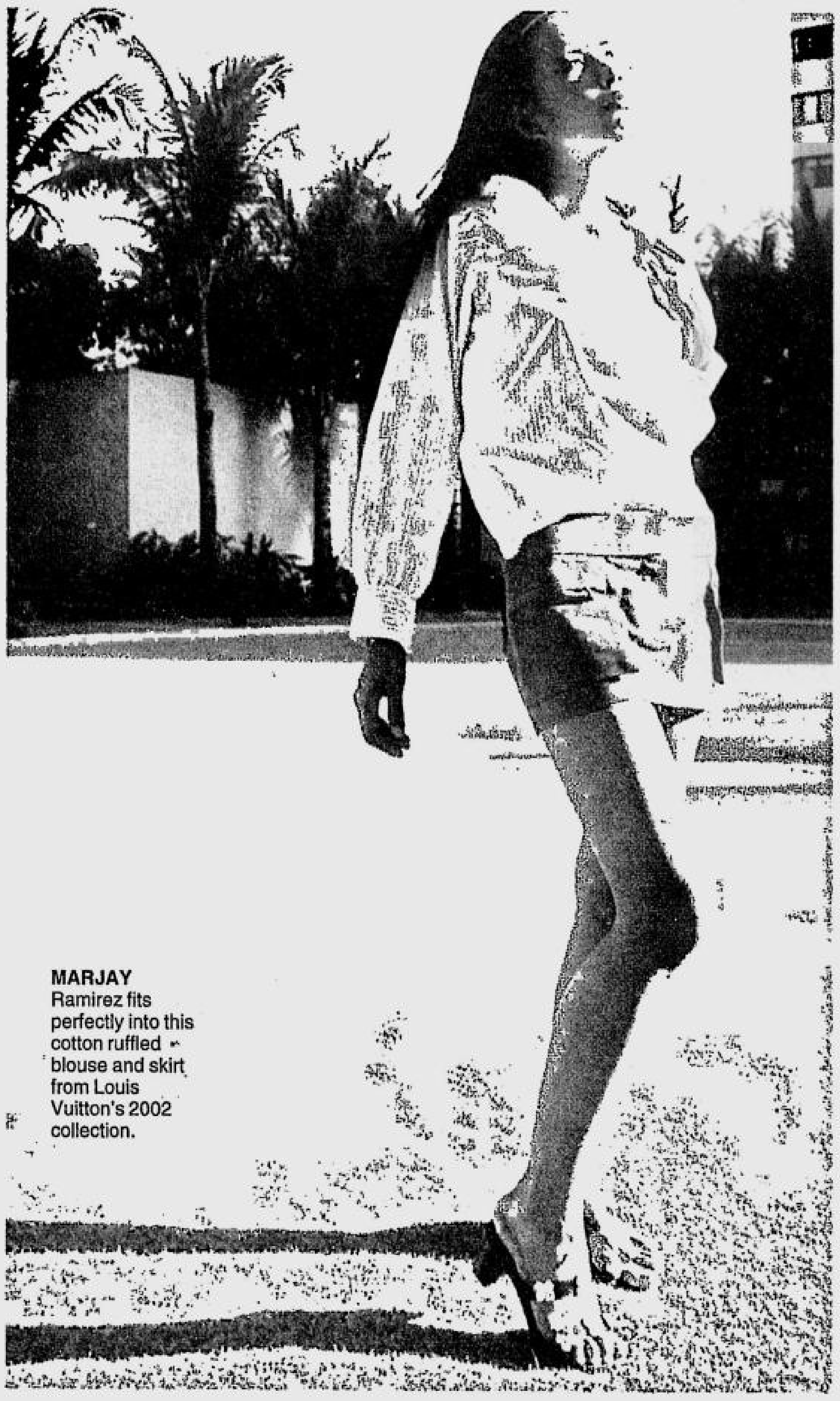
THIS chiffon skirt with tendrils of moss, avocado and lime, teamed with a cropped beaded spaghetti top in crepe harks back to the Romantic ideal of the sylph.



LA GITANA. A gypsy-inspired number in spandex

Rampage on the ramp

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photo by Wahoo Guerrero



MARJAY Ramirez fits perfectly into this cotton ruffled blouse and skirt from Louis Vuitton's 2002 collection.

WHEN she's intensely focused, Scorpio-born Marjay Ramirez can achieve anything. Young at 15, this year's Esac-Supermodel winner has a warrior's spirit who likes to hurdle challenges; she wants to be an achiever. Her formidable task is to become a professional model—in every sense of the word.

She is eager to be independent and learn from the School of Hard Knocks. She is undergoing a home study program under the Cebu Distance Learning Center so that she can fulfill her commitments.

We tease her that studying is what she does in her leisure time, between modeling commitments. Ramirez says she does her work like any student in her junior year—putting chemicals in the beakers, studying math, brushing up on the Thesaurus and doing paper work.

Ramirez was spotted by Charity Lagahid, Elite Model '96, while she was hanging around at the Ayala Center Mall in Cebu. At 13, she made her first foray into modeling at the Preview Fashion Show with Cebuano designers. She did pictorials for Preview magazine, Zee Quarterly, Woman Today and Mod.

She was a fast learner. For one, she had no inhibitions. She would perform anything that was asked of her without any qualms. In a short time, she learned to emote in front of the camera.

Her biggest challenge so far has been understanding the cultural differences between models, particularly during the Supermodel contest in Miami. Ramirez has grown accustomed to starting shows and pictorials, organized by Runway Productions, with prayers to set the positive energy throughout the activity. In Miami, the other contestants found prayers or being open with spirituality a bit strange.

Nonetheless, the experiences during the preparation for the contests gave her new strength. And the habit of positive thinking results in good karma.

Ramirez maintains her 120-pound frame by eating little and jogging. She used to be a volleyball player, but she quit because she felt her thighs were getting too muscular.

Ramirez's height of 5'9½" is due to her genes. Her mother, Maria Lourdes, who works in Bangko Central in Cebu, is 5'7". Her father, Jay, an assistant basketball coach, is 6'. Her brother Nino, who is also 6' tall at 16, is being wooed by college university teams.

Ramirez prefers to lead a life of simplicity. She shuns late-night clubbing and high-maintenance beauty programs.

Asked if she has a boyfriend, the ingenue sheepishly replies, "Secret." Joey Espino, the head honcho of Cal Carrie Phils. and organizer of the local Esac-Supermodel Search, advised her to focus on her responsibilities as the winner and not have other "distractions."

On her mentor, she says, "Joey motivates me to succeed and to be happy. If you are not happy, you're not going to do your work well and take it to a higher level."

Her strength is her drive to succeed. "*Ayaw kong magpatalo*," she declares.

On her weak spot, this minor wants to cut off strings from her parents. "I want to be independent," she says.

Although models are getting younger these days, the challenge to teen models is finishing their studies. Ramirez's other option is to stay in Manila to work and study simultaneously. Understandably, her parents are apprehensive about giving a minor some autonomy.

But the level-headed Ramirez is in good hands.

> 'Modeling is not for long. I think I'm going to end up doing something weird'

Makeup is dark and dramatic

CLARINS' newest makeup collection is dubbed Colour Symphony.

For daytime makeup, keep the coverage light and natural coverage. Apply Clarins' Shimmer Powder Compact in Golden Copper, to the forehead, nose and chin over a daytime moisturizer. The compact contains auto-focus pigments that, when used directly on the skin, gives a smooth and even-looking complexion without the heaviness of most compact powders.

Applying Shimmer Powder on the décolleté, shoulders and arms create subtle hints of color and glitter to one's overall look.

Dramatic eyes are what Colour Symphony is all about. Clarins advises one to apply the lightest shade of its Colour Symphony Eye Colour Trios to the entire eyelid, from lash line till the area just under the eyebrows, to introduce the maximum amount of light. Follow this with the next darkest shade in the Eye Colour Trio and apply on the eyelid, from lash base to crease, to give depth to the eyes. Apply the darkest shade along the lash line, and blend up to the crease to highlight the eyes and make the lashes appear fuller.

BEA Valdes wears Renaissance eye shadows in khaki, golden beige and preach.

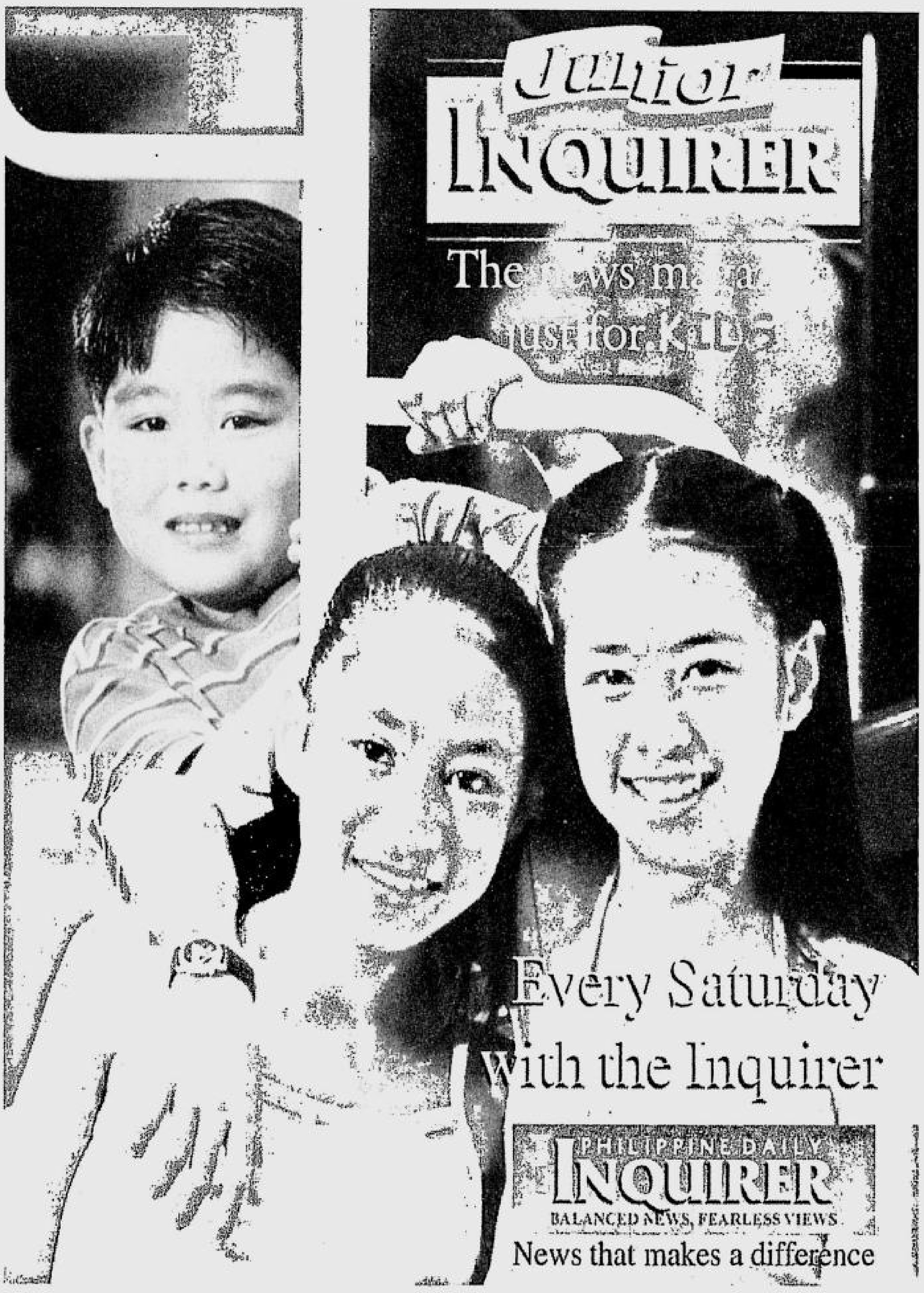
PHOTOS BY WAHOO GUERRERO
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY JOJO ARJONA AND LOURD RYAN RAMOS OF EMPHASIS SALON

MARJAY wears Baroque eye colors in turquoise and frosted chestnut. Blue is a major color trend of the season and is found in almost all of the designers' fashion collection.

One can also use the darkest shade of the Eye Colour Trio as an eyeliner. Dampen an eye shadow brush and apply the darkest shade along the lash line. For a final touch, use Clarins Lengthening Mascara or Pure Volume Mascara on the eyelashes.

Colour Symphony Eye Colour Trios come in three blend—Romantic, in deep violet, intense purple and soft lilac; Renaissance, in khaki, golden beige and peach.

Clarins favors understated lip colors during the cool season. Before applying lip color, blot lips with paper tissue to absorb any traces of oil. Outline the lips with Clarins' Felt Tip Lip Liners by placing the slanted edge of the felt against the lip line.



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Fubu is for you

The leading name in street fashion in the US invades Manila

By Donnie C. Ramirez
Contributor

FUBU stands for "For Us, By Us." It is also a brand of urban clothing inspired by the hip-hop culture. In the words of its visionary founder Daymond John, who started the business in 1992, the street-inspired fashions were "envisioned to fill a void in the retail market that was concentrating on high fashion, while largely ignoring the urban market."

Daymond took a mortgage on his house and converted half of it into a factory. He kept the other half as a chill-out place for Team Fubu, composed of his neighborhood friends like J. Alexander Martin, Keith Perrin and Carl Brown, who have a strong association with the New York music scene.

The earliest collection consisted of tees, rugby shirts, hockey jerseys and baseball caps. From its humble beginnings, the company has grown into a $400 million business, with offices at the Empire State Building, one of New York City's lasting landmarks. It has diversified into related garment lines, including Platinum Fubu, Fubu footwear for men and women, intimate apparel, swimwear and watches. There is even a Fubu tuxedo line.

Fubu was launched in the Philippines last week at a rousing party at the chi-chi Dish in Rockwell. The event was timed with the opening of the first Fubu boutique at the Power Plant Mall. At an earlier press conference, Nick Tuason and Chris Teodoro, the youthful honchos of Fubu's exclusive local distributor Pacsports Phils. Inc., presented a sneak preview of the label's new collections consisting of flamboyant and mostly oversized street clothing in bright colors.

FUBU Phils, general manager Nick Tuason

"Locally, fashion is often categorized as either casual or couture," Tuason says. "Fubu is determined to break that mold by targeting those who do not wish to be constricted in their fashion, and are not afraid to express their own style without sacrificing comfort."

Strutting their Fubu stuff on stage were four "pretty hot and tempting" members of the "4-peat" UAAP champion team La Salle Green Archers: three-point wizard Alvin Castro, 2001 Rookie of the Year Mark Cardona, hunky forward Willy Wilson and towering center Carlo Sharma. All in their early 20s, the four dudes oozed with the same youthful and vivacious machismo as the other international celebs who are closely associated with Fubu such as rapper LL Cool J, actor Will Smith, heavyweight boxing champion Lennox Lewis and the Boyz II Men.

Fubu proclaims itself as "clothing for the culture, by the culture." But founder Daymond John sez it best: "We are the consumer making for the consumer!"

UAAP Rookie of the year, Mark Cardona

Butterfly Museum

Another "secret destination" worth checking this holiday season is the unheralded Starland Theme Park on the top floor of Metropolis Star Mall in Alabang. Spread out on a 250-sq-m area, the playland houses a Butterfly Museum with dozens of enchanting species cavorting in their natural habitat. A sure hit among kids, the indoor playland also boasts of a state-of-the-art skating rink operated by Sylvia Selda. Manuela Corporation top guns Lino Riguera and Mark Aguilar Villar and Dr. Francisca Pagkalinawan of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports were the special guests at the recent opening.

Azzuro Too!

Mediterranean food-lovers living north of Edsa need not drive all the way to Makati to enjoy their favorite tapazz. Azzuro, the Meditterranean dining hotspot in Glorietta, has opened a branch at SM Megamall's megastrip recently and it's called—what else—Azzuro Too! The menu is priced easy on the pocket, with bar chow starting at P55. And they have valet parking—and anyone who has tried getting a parking space in Megamall knows that's a real extra!

Sheila Romero, together with partners Les Romero, Lydia David and Maielle Manimtim, and chef Philip Golding, had their hands full with the opening night turnout. Heading the guest list were French Ambassador Guilles Chouraqui, SM veep Ricky Lim, actress Lorna Tolentino and savvy broadcaster Ces Drilon. Trisha Salvador and Hans Montenegro hosted a short program, which launched Azzuro's Prestige Card. Among the first to get their "plastic" were designer Paul Cabral, French chef Cyril Soenen, Noel and Cory Untalan, model Angel Jacob and my favorite "The Madman" Martin Nievera.

Birthday people

There are quite a few candle-blowers these past few weeks. On this season of glad tidings, we wish them all many more happy years.

Rene Tiongco, soul mate and business partner of designer Edgar Allan, threw a Hawaiian luau for his mom Rosario at Edgar's residence in Quezon City. Why Hawaiian? Tita Charing, as the birthday celebrator is called, loves gardening. Weeks before the party, she and son Rene (who is into fashion merchandising) redid the landscaping of the garden while Edgar was vacationing in New York. The plants were in full bloom on the day of the party.

For civic leader and entrepreneur Celine Bautista, it was a series of luncheons and dinners, starting with a family get-together with husband Noel and children Con-Con, Jay-jay and Chin-Chin and sprightly mom Doña Pinang Saldaña. Then there were lunches with former classmates at Assumption and colleagues from the Zonta Club and Catholic Women's Club. Celine's birthday series was capped by a rousing evening at Makati Shangri-La's Conway Bar where she shared birthday honors with Babot Aspiras-Oreta.

Airin Robles, one of the scions of Sta. Lucia Realty, gathered her closest friends like Arlene Ong, Jaina Perez, Cynthia Albano and Therese Santos for an all-night dance party at Coast 101, the restaurant that she co-owns in jumping Libis, QC. Joining Airin and her pals were her brother Tonet and sisters Nanie and Annie and brother-in-law Roland Andres.

Spiffy lady-banker Nympha Yatco, who manages the BPI branch on Salcedo Street, Makati, was the belle of the dance floor at her birthday party held at Savannah Moon. Replay, a group of fiftysomething musicians, kept the action grooving with the '60s music of the Beach Boys, Dave Clark 5 and Rolling Stones. Among the guests were Mario Katigbak, Manny Martinez, former QC Mayor Mel Mathay and the exquisite Vilma Valera.

Viring de Asis, the noted antique dealer, chose to be simply at home on her birthday. Having just recovered from a pesky back ailment, Tita Viring entertained a steady stream of well-wishers who feasted on her well-known *torta*, *tapa*, *alimango* and *ensaladang talong*. It was a delightful open house from lunch to dinner, made more memorable for the birthday lady by the presence of her daughter Joanne, sons-in-law Dr. Gerard Salgado and Gaston Maya and her grandchildren. Other daughter Liza is in California but will be joining the family this Christmas.

For our dear colleague Crispina Belen, it was a grueling round of parties, too. Makati Mayor Jojo Binay and wife Elenita kicked it off with a luncheon at the spanking new 22-story Makati City Hall. Encarnita Martinez followed up with lunch at Saisaki. Regal Films' Lily Monteverde had her turn at a dinner held at her very own Century Imperial Palace Suites on Timog Avenue Rounding it up was the Gypsy Party organized by Zeny Cabral, Baby Ortiz, Lulu Macalino and QC Councilor Wilma Sarino.

Held at the Manila Polo Club, darling Cris looked great in a colorful ruffled outfit designed by Rudy Fuentes. But most of the sparkle in her eyes came from the presence of her devoted hubby Nards, their two sons Walden and Lester, plus her mom Julie Martinez and niece Michelle Sampilo who jetted all the way from New York to wish her many more happy years!

Street fashion captures holiday mood

KICKERS, the European brand that continues to revolutionize street fashion, unveiled recently its Punk and Varsity collection, with its impressive range of styles and colors perfect for the holiday season.

The Punk collection consists of woven bottoms and knitted tops that are great for all sorts of teen activities. The Varsity collection features a dazzling array of knitted tops and woven bottoms that will surely catch the interest of fashion-crazy teens.

Kickers also presents its newest range of checkered shirts and blouses for those who want more from their tops.

Visit the Kickers boutiques at the Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu, Glorietta 4, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Shangri-La Plaza, SM Manila, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Southmall and at all leading department and specialty stores nationwide.

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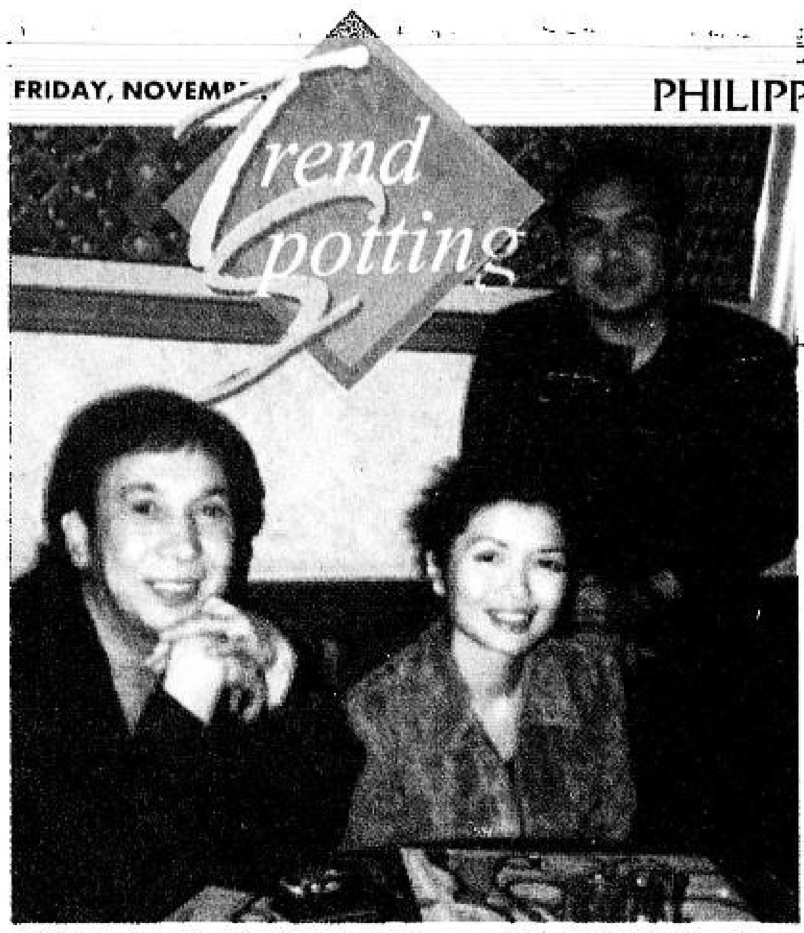
LIFESTYLE

Hair and beauty products woo the 10-year-olds



RICKY Reyes with Alice Sevilla Mendoza and Cris Aquino in Hong Kong

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

> Needle-straight hair is the vogue in HK, thanks to an industry that seems to know no economic doom

I'M neither exaggerating nor hallucinating when I say that in Hong Kong two weeks ago, I didn't see a woman below 40 (or who looks like in that age range) sporting a wavy or curly hair; young girls all have needle-straight hair. Apparently, straight perm is all the rage there, inspired obviously by **Jennifer Aniston**'s Rachel on "Friends." So the curls or the natural wave is, shall I say, forgotten, for now.

But unlike the traditional straight hair, the 2001 version of straight has needlepoint tips—the sharp, uneven edge made more pronounced no doubt by all kinds of gel and shine. No matter the length or volume or cut—from bob to waist-length, from the bangs to the back, whether layered or not—the hair is super-straight. These girls endure on the average four hours in the hair salon to get this effect, and it seems like it's worth it.

Even my old friend **Alice Sevilla Mendoza**, the former INQUIRER editor and Metro magazine columnist whom I touched based with in Hong Kong, has her long hair done that way. Hers was bunched up at the back in a clasp, with the pointed tips protruding, and it looked good on her.

The look is chic punk. It's a welcome change. **Ricky Reyes** doesn't have to convince me much to have that done on me soon. The only catch is that you can't shampoo your hair until four days after the straight perm, which Alice dutifully followed. Now that gives me second thought.

Ricky brought the straight perm technology to the Philippines months ago and, as far as I know, is the only one offering it here. Unlike the traditional hair-straightening treatment, this one leaves your hair straight until months after when it fully grows out.

I was with Ricky in Hong Kong recently to see Cosmoprof Asia, the only and largest international beauty trade show. Held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, it gathered thousands of manufacturers, suppliers from the world over in the beauty and hair, cosmetics, perfumery, skin care and even beauty product packaging industries. I'd been to garment trade shows and furniture shows, but a beauty trade show was a first for me. I realized how vast and lucrative the beauty-hair industry is worldwide, even now that the world economy is on a downturn. The gathering seemed bullish about the future; it has to be because the market is huge.

People know "Mother" Ricky as a very enterprising and accomplished entrepreneur, a trailblazer in his field, but there's nothing like seeing him at work, dealing with suppliers and speed-spotting hair/beauty products and trends that will take off in the Philippines. It's sharp instinct at work. I saw him pick out hair and beauty products—from gels to hair colors—in a jiffy and choose the right packaging and design to go with them. If he now has more than 20 branches in Metro Manila and Cebu, spanning markets from A to D—none of it franchised, but all owned and managed by his thousand-strong staff—it could only be because he's mastered his market and knows perfectly well the trends and innovations it can take to. He knows how to create and meet the needs of this cash-rich market (no credit cards, please). People in the hair salon business might know style, but Ricky knows both the style and the commerce of it. Moreover, he knows the staff training needed to pull it off, and again, has turned this training into lucrative business.

In Hong Kong, he met up with his old friend and colleague **Thomas Wong** who apparently also has a far-reaching vision. From Hong Kong, Thomas has branched into China where he put up, not hair salons, but a training school, for China's mammoth population where a vast segment yearns to learn the craft, for a steady sum.

An afternoon in the trade show was a big learning experience, and a lifestyle reporter like us couldn't have asked for more. Under one roof, we saw the trends and the thousands of beauty products emerging. For instance, we noticed how the industry is aggressively courting the preteen market, which undoubtedly is burgeoning. There are beauty and cosmetics products for the 10-year-olds, from makeup to nail polish, all packaged in vibrant pop colors and designs. This age market must be hooked on every nail design imaginable; apparently it's treating fingernail design like style graffiti—a statement of beauty and mood.

There's also an emerging line of herbal lipstick peddled by a Los Angeles-based Filipino cosmetics artist, **Jose Narciso**. Nail products are pitched on health consciousness; cuticle treatments are many, including a floral moisturizing line. Blow dryer for nails is also popular, like what you see on "Sex & the City."

Beauty technology is also innovating fast. There is even a towel that peels the skin. There's a variety of hardware, as well. A shampoo basin functions like a washing machine—you sit on a reclining chair with your head tilted back and your hair enveloped in a transparent hood. Water jets out within the hood, exerting varying degrees of pressure, to shampoo-massage the hair—a machine does now what the hair salon attendant's hands used to do.

Lots of interesting developments are indeed taking place in the hair and beauty business that seems to know no economic doom.

HAIR/ p.G2

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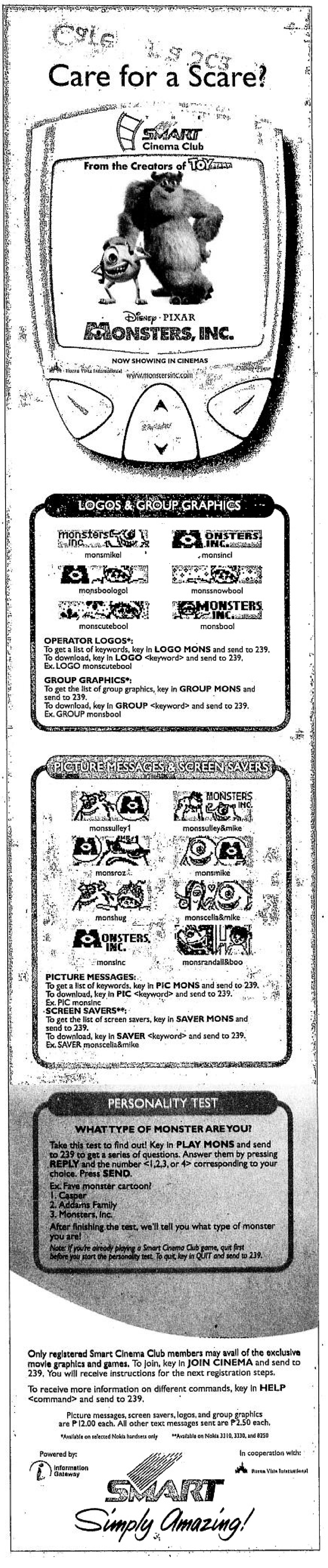

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The name of the pose

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

AS we sat for a quiet conversation, we were regaled by the talent of somebody who claimed to know everybody. In this overpopulated city rich with pretenses but possessing a small-town mentality, a great part of who you are is who you know. In a relentless attempt to simulate a metropolis out of our bloated barrio, we tend to refer to ourselves as sophisticated urbanites who feel violated by the manners of jeepney drivers. We proclaim our cultural superiority by announcing that the curse of the Filipino people is that we still pee against walls in public places whenever the urge arises.

So in a city where every somebody knows just about everybody who is also somebody, the persistence of references, of casual anecdotes, even of whispered secrets, tends to validate that oh-so-important social standing. Pity the wannabe who cannot distinguish Lizzie from Sofia. How pathetic the beacon of social graces who cannot (at the snap of a finger, much like the speed required in answering questions as a contestant of "The Weakest Link") enumerate the complete genealogy of the families who matter in the circles where they really matter.

With the proliferation of coffee shops and chains, we can now distinguish latte from espresso. We can now pinpoint specific brews and blends while wrestling with our delicate minds as to whether or not we should use white, brown or sugar substitutes. My goodness, we can even name five kinds of biscotti and make very serious declarations about the joys of very serious (not fly-by-night) foot spas.

Soliloquy

As we gathered around the table talking about anything to pass the night, the somebody who claimed to know everybody went into a soliloquy of self-indulgence. We listened closely, amazed by his particular expertise in remembering names and events as if these were benchmarks of the Holy Book. He would rattle off twists and turns of events but never without pulling a name from the Rolodex of his mind if only to certify the authenticity of what he is narrating. To a certain extent, the conversation was delicious and interesting.

After all, what can be more titillating than to hear the spin cycle of dirty linen coming from the service exits of the rich, famous and infamous. The mode of the narrative flows with such elegance and grace as the crispness of people you read about and who get photographed for partying suddenly assume such human and juicy form.

We wondered, "How does he know about these things?" But then he was quick enough in qualifying that he should know because... oh, well, he had access to garbage chute of the social demigods.

Ah, okay. It had something to do with pedigree. The élan and charm that come in narrating up-to-the-minute newsbreaks with such, uh, casualness, must come naturally for those who breathe the same qualify of oxygen in the most private of circles. Even if—yes, there are also flies and mosquitoes, in Forbes Park—to be able to know about these denizens in their highest and lower forms must require a certain journalistic talent. And this can only come if you mince every other sentence by manic namedropping.

Natural

But it was his naturalness that we admired, really. Somehow, he could rattle off about anything and anyone, making cross-references to business, extramarital affairs, family scandals and even problems involving hygiene. For some strange reason, there seemed to be nothing crude about the behavior. There was even a touch of the poetic about it. As he flicked his wrist, exhibited oh-so-bored eye rolls to accompany the sputtering of verbal venom at its best, he made it seem like an art.

In no way did the constant references to the who's who even came close to yellow journalism. Instead, it possessed a kind of mortifying authority.

We listened with half-hearted amazement—or was it amusement? Only after the first hour or so did we conclude that you can only talk so much about the *beau monde* before you reach the status of the terminally *boooring*. We veered the talk to more substantial matters like "Harry Potter" and the faithfulness of the film to the book or the future of Mindanao. That was when he started naming everyone he knew in Mindanao—what they were doing, who they were "doing" and so on and so forth.

One thing that distinguishes the Homo Sapien from the rest of the creatures created by our Lord is that we can grit our teeth and pretend we are smiling.

But he went on and on and on, exhausting even the Energizer rabbit with endless dissing, character assassination, historical clarifications and even connections with the BIR. True to form, a simple sentence blossomed into an overripe paragraph because the footnotes and the addenda were longer than the intelligently empty statements.

Yawn

I stifled a yawn and my brain went on automatic pilot. I allowed his next set of yak-yak-yakking to drift into my eardrums and dissolve somewhere between my left and right nostrils. It was as if there was such grave importance in making references to all these big people in order to impress this otherwise socially mediocre audience.

And after all the cups of coffee were consumed—and all the waiters started throwing hate glances at us because we were the only ones left in the café—we decided to call it a night. We were all exhausted, including he who knew everyone and everything about everybody else. He said he could not wait for the next chance we could all get together and have some chitchat.

I surveyed his captive audience as we filed out of the coffee shop. Yes, we were all tired. Tired of that sort of crap.

In the larger design of the universe, the particulars that happen to the lives of other people do not matter. There are definitely more significant things to do with one's verbal prowess than foisting to people that you know the more important folks according to the social register. Sure, they look good in photographs; they even look better in person.

But for others who find happiness in freshly brewed coffee of exotic blends, compulsive and obsessive social validation is simply a manifestation of the cheapest kind of insecurity. And, yes, we can also go on with our daily lives without that sort of dung.

Hair and beauty products woo the 10-year-olds

(From page G1)

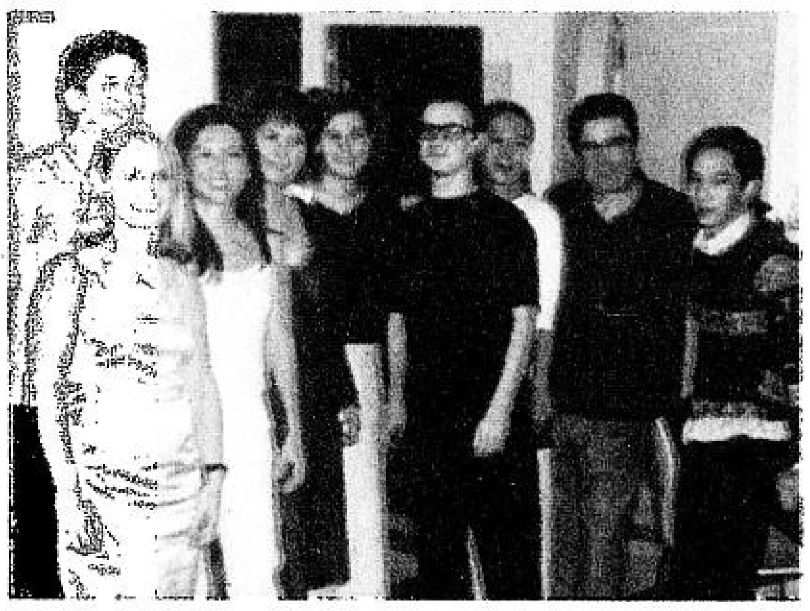
FDCP's dogged determination

TALK about single-mindedness. It seems there's no discouraging the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines from pursuing the promotion of Filipino design craft. Led by its highly focused president **Lulu Tan Gan** and **Tonichi Nocum**, the FDCP, with the Garment Trade and Export Board head **Fe Agoncillo-Reyes**, conducted this week a seminar on trends and marketing aimed to update designers, suppliers on the market and fashion industry trends abroad, notably Europe.

With the support of the French embassy, the FDCP brought over experts from Paris, from varied backgrounds, from trade to style magazine. We met these experts at a small dinner hosted by Lulu.

Myriam Mohamed of Esmod International in Paris gave an overview on trends and marketing. European distribution expert **Cecile Jubin** talked on the European clothing and retailing market. **Pascal Monfort**, a journalist and member of the Parisian's Couture Council, gave the Spring/Summer 2002-2003 forecast.

According to these experts, unlike in the US where the fashion and retail industry is struggling through the continuous threat of terrorist attacks, Europe seems to be managing things fairly well. It helps, they say, that the European fashion trade, notably Paris, has the rest of the Australian and Asian markets to bank on. These French experts have a good impression of Filipino designers mainly because the winners of the FDCP young designers competition had bagged the top prizes in the Paris competition as well, notably **Frederick Peralta** and **Jojie Lloren**. Our latest winner, **Dong Omaga Diaz**, won the Lesage Award in the Paris competition and is now training in the famous embroidery-craft house of Lesage in Paris.



FDCP'S Lulu Tan-Gan (third from left) and Tonichi Nocum (second from left) with guests from French fashion retail industry: (from left) Cecile Jubin, Myriam Mohamed, Marion Lamy of the French embassy, Pascal Monfort, designer Jojie Lloren, Philippe Norman of Alliance Française and director Ariel Lozada.

Jojie has been back in Manila for about a year now after a design apprenticeship in Paris and is preparing for his gala show in April. That should be the big fashion show to look forward to early part of next year. Also at the dinner was maverick fashion director **Ariel Lozada** who's just back from London where he had his fill of the emerging Radical Fashion. Ariel plans to pull off a similar production here.

Undaunted entrepreneurs

THERE'S no slowing down the drive of some of our battle-tested entrepreneurs. **Ben Chan** has just opened a branch of Bench in Vigan, putting great faith in the thrifty Ilocano consumers. Sala's **Collin McKay** is expanding the gay bar Joy, to woo the upscale gay market, and is opening a cozy Italian resto on the second story where diners will be treated to home-cooked Italian favorites amid a very intimate ambiance. This, at a time when some J. Nakpil restos are closing. **Chito Vijandre's** and **Ricky Toledo's** new resto-bar Fidel, however, seems to be the new "in" place to check out on weekends in Nakpil. Last Friday it was filled to overflowing. What made the section more attractive to us were the new boutiques around it and the al fresco café in the pretty courtyard. This mini-mall, that comes alive at midnight, is giving a yet another new face to Malate. At The Fort, **Billy King**, whose Le Soufflé is a unique survivor in the area, opens this week a resto-bar and coffee shop also in this vastland.

According to his associate, chef **Jessie Sincioco**, King is bullish about the resto business at The Fort, no matter that Greenbelt is springing back to life any time now. In Annapolis, it takes a seasoned marketing man-turned-restaurateur like **Jun Ambas** to turn a tragedy into a business opportunity. Ambas' Afrodisia restaurant is a stone's throw from Atlanta Center, where **Nida Blanca** was found dead, and Platinum building where **Teresa Carlson** jumped to her death. Asked if these recent tragedies were bad for business, Ambas said not at all. In fact, he said, they make for juicy talk at lunch or dinner when diners inevitably try to get the lowdown from Ambas' nosy staff. If you're hankering for your old favorite Adriatico or Bistro Remedios dishes, like I do sometimes, but are stuck in the Ortigas corporate jungle, Afrodisia is your Malate away from Malate. In this new concept resto Ambas opened with his dad-in-law, **Larry J. Cruz**, Ambas has added innovative dishes found only at Afrodisia, such as the real spicy ones. He's not at all dissuaded by the dour times.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AR-03284 & AR-0386, Series of 2001

The Scrooging of Christmas

WE are on the last throes of November and it does not feel like it. Where are all the Christmas décor that used to sprout out of nowhere as early as mid-October? Where are those time-tested Yuletide carols being piped in from some omnibus sound system warning people that Santa Claus is coming to town? Even the weather is not cooperating. We get gray skies and sprays of rain—the closet thing to tropical winter. But the air is humid, the city is still coated with pollution and dust.

I am beginning to fear that St. Nicholas is not going to ride his sleigh this time around. Maybe Rudolph (the of the infamous carmine proboscis) is convulsing with anthrax.

Sure. Cross the bridge on Gilmore near Sampaguita Pictures and you are still brought into a temporary fantasy of Pampanga Christmas lanterns all lined up and creating a kaleidoscope of visual overload. Enter National Bookstore and you are greeted by Christmas décor—glittery balls, synthetic pine and vines, even token papier-maché angels with frozen faces of holy bliss. But talk to anyone about the prospects of December and he would simply look away, refusing to be reminded that the season to don our gay apparels has become yet another reminder of how screwed up life has become on the onset of the 21st century.

You talk about Christmas and what immediately come to mind are the 13th month salary and the annual bonus. What bonus? With companies downsizing, people getting laid off work, and employers wrestling with their calculators trying to find strategies to keep as many of their people employed, the much-anticipated bonus this year has become as real as the Snow Queen.

As expected, Christmas has been diminished to a season of expenditures, of lavishness and even a perversion of the Pinoy fiesta mentality. It has been quite some time when we replaced chestnuts roasting on the open fire with *nilagang mani* in steaming on a stainless steel *kaldero* atop a *kariton* being pushed around in the middle of Edsa traffic. Out of practicality, the kilo of grapes has been set aside for a bunch of *lanzones*. The menu of the annual pig-out has been drastically revised, throwing out the delicious and vicious Chinese ham and *queso de bola* with some other viands more reasonable for the shrinking budget.

Paranoia

Even the maddening Christmas rush has been diminished to a whimpering Yuletide paranoia. There was a time not too long ago when the *tiangge* in Greenhills looked like the set of "The Day of the Locust": a mob of frenzied *aguinaldo* shoppers all nudging and badgering each other as they tried to excavate bargain sale treasures on what looked like an infinity of stalls. That was also the time when traffic on Edsa was nerve-wracking, when you could finish an entire novel of Thomas Pynchon while gestating in your car from Alabang to Makati.

> With the worldwide recession, are we seeing a diminution of Christmas, money- and meaning-wise?

Whatever happened to the great moments when all the Christmas bazaars held in exclusive enclaves turned into pilgrimages of coifed and perfumed urban *contessas*, attacking these gift fairs with the gusto and appetite of piranhas?

We used to curse all that. But now we miss them. We ask ourselves what happened. And we need not hit our heads on the nearest Christmas wreath to provide an explanation. People have become poorer. People dig into their pockets to find loose change after all the bare necessities have been paid for. People have nothing more to spare.

"Do you know how much Christmas décor costs nowadays?" someone complained. "Every year I used to buy something new for the Christmas tree and set aside the older decorations. But now a bare wreath that looks like a giant green used toothbrush costs almost 800 bucks! Can you believe that?"

"*Naku*, I am not giving Christmas gifts this year," another added. "I will give cards saying that the money I should have spent buying *borloloy* for my friends will be donated to an orphanage." Oh, that's really noble and ennobling if only there were an orphanage serving as recipient for this act of ultimate generosity.

"Christmas will be limited to my immediate family. My friends will understand," this woman said with a smile. Of course what that meant was, "Nobody's going to get anything from me this year, okay?"

But the real clincher was the short-of-breath set of exclamation points from a consistently hyperventilating young matron: "Do you know how much they are charging for fruitcakes this year?! My *gawd*! You'd think they're sticking in semiprecious stones and not candied fruits into the stuff! That's why I'm switching to special *ensaymada*! *Puwede na rin yon, di ba*?"

How much?

Although it's been said many times, many ways, Merry Christmas has been diminished to the simple equation of: "How much?" And we cannot help it although we are not completely to blame. I am not about to ponder (or indulge in throes of suffering) on the commercialism that has seethed into the marrow of civilization thereby transforming the Yuletide season into a sickening display of conspicuous consumption.

God knows that of all times, we certainly need this blatant display of cash and credit card power if only to give a much needed push to our ailing economy. But let's leave that problem to the Central Bank, Mar Roxas and Lito Camacho. People focused on the wheels of commerce don't care if they see Mommy kissing Santa Claus as long as the heroic overseas contract workers come home complete with their overstuffed *balikbayan* boxes and start exchanging their all-too-precious green bucks for fragile pesos.

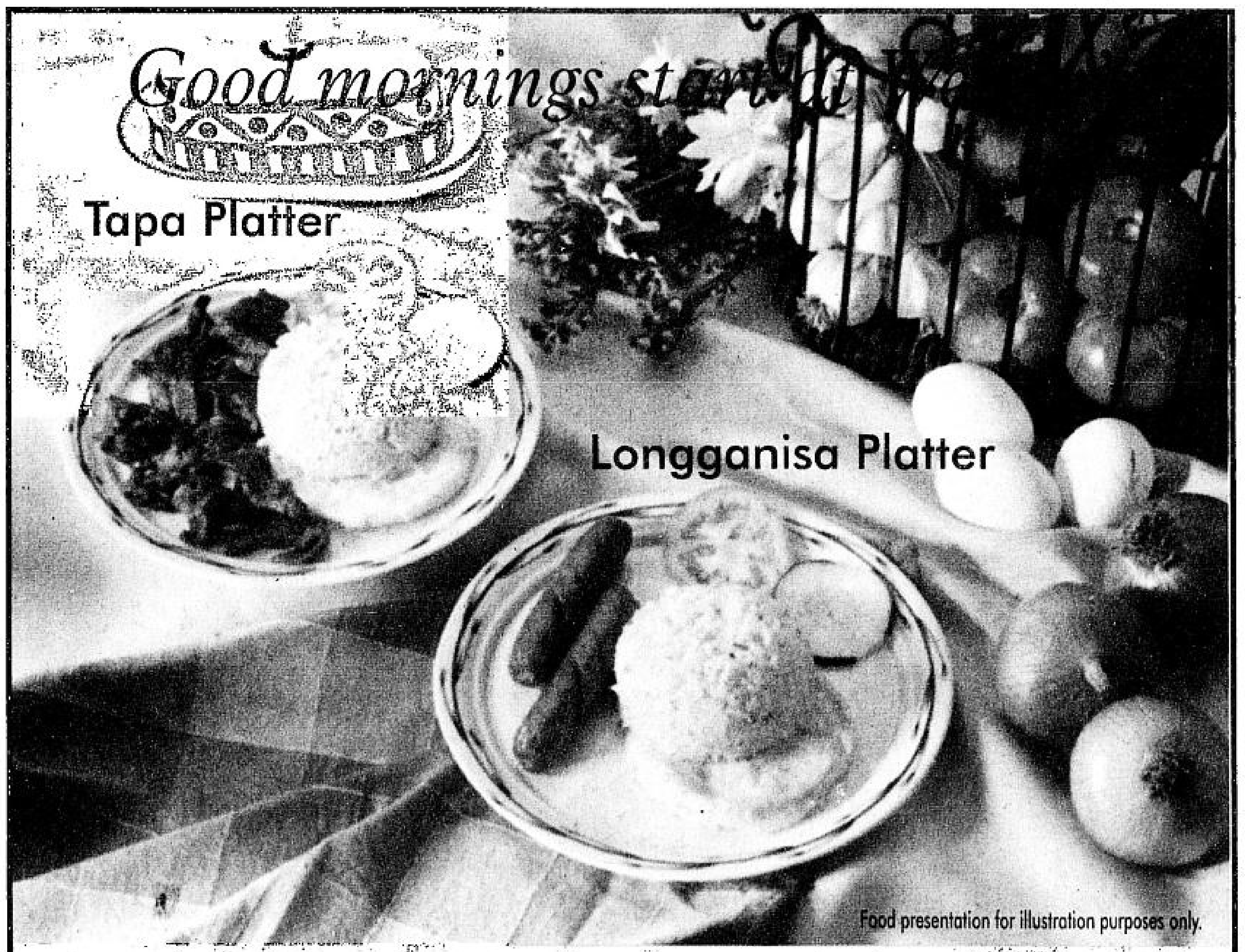
Christmas is literally around the corner, but there is no trace of it in the air. In a world preoccupied with planes crashing into buildings and residential houses, envelopes spilling with anthrax spores and the power of currencies shrinking fast, Christmas has ceased to be an event of contemplation, affirmation and celebration. Now they are perceiving the month to come as yet another reminder of how much they have lost, clinging onto memories of the not only good but better days gone by.

I am not about to argue that this should not be the case. The threat of economic distress and the prospects that the first quarter of 2002 will make the here and now look better, where can you muster the guts to even think of celebrating. "This is nothing," somebody said. "You should wait and see what happens sometime January when spending really shuts down, and we will feel the start of the real brunt of the economic free fall." That will make you even dread welcoming 2002 as a Happy New Year.

But then in a lofty, impractical and pretentiously philosophical sense, is this what Christmas is all about? Whatever happened to the priceless value of family, friendship and, oh yes, love? Or have those, too, turned into verifiable and accountable costs, priced by international bar codes and confirmed in value by official receipts?

Perhaps that is the more valid reason we should be dismayed about what Christmas this year seems to convey.

Jose Javier Reyes, contributor



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1937, Series of 2001.

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Enjoy a complimentary Starbucks coffee
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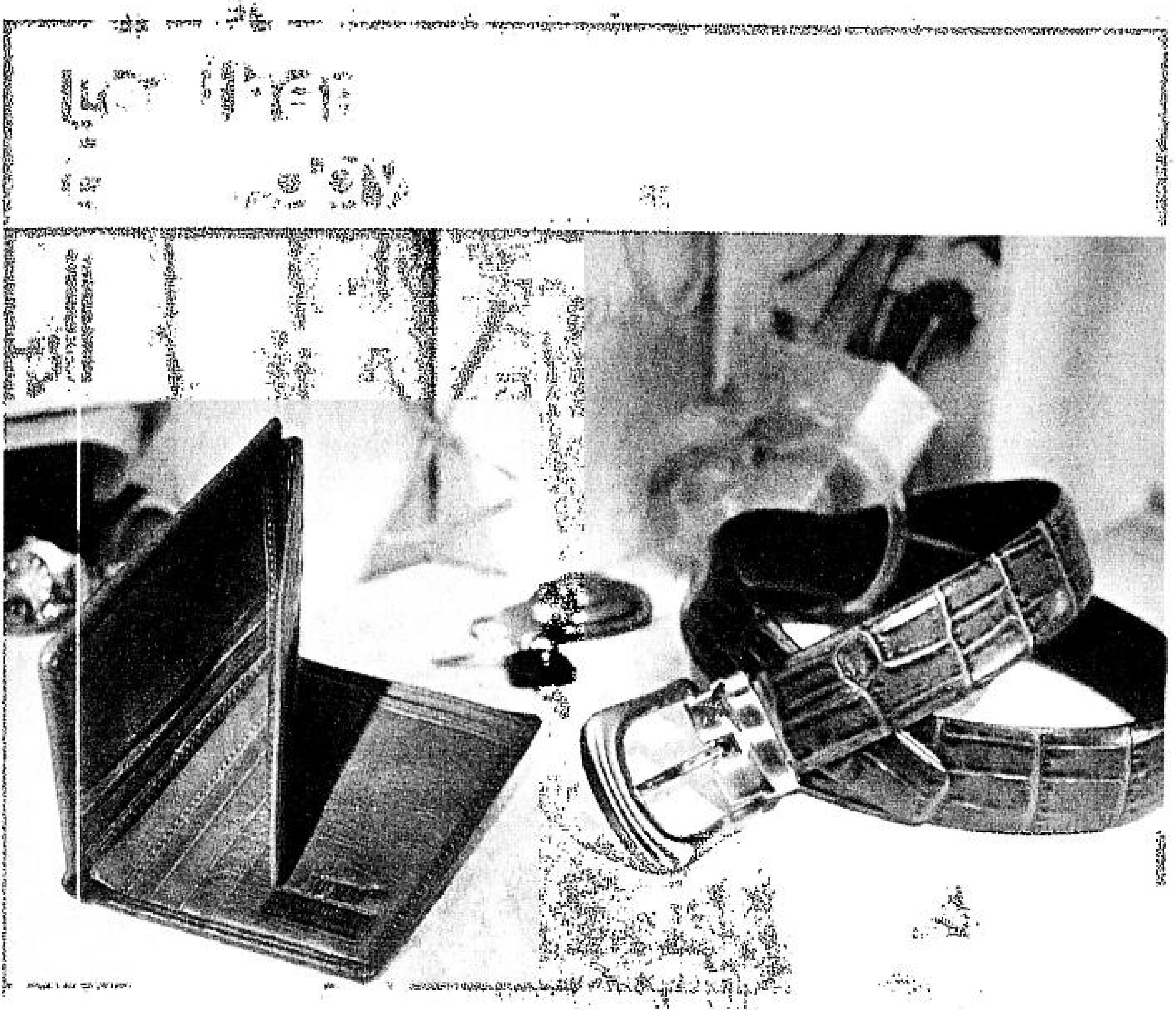
Mall celebrates 1st anniversary with red hot promos



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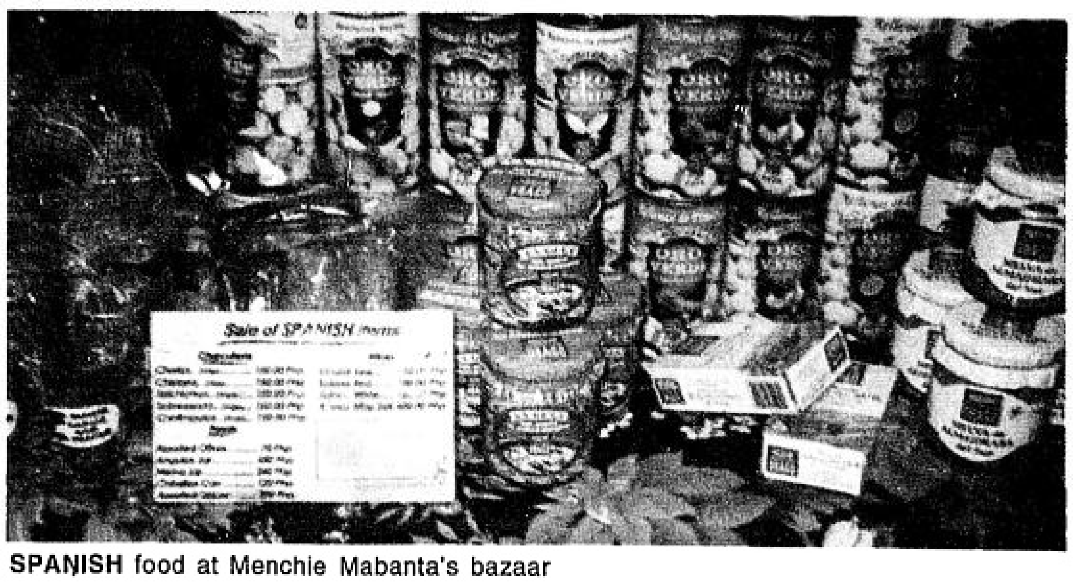
Shoppers who make a single minimum purchase of P500 from any Power Plant Mall establishment can present proof of purchase at the redemption booth located at the North Court (ground level). One is entitled to one raffle coupon for every single minimum purchase of P500. The more you buy, the more raffle coupons you get and the more chances you have of winning. Raffle promo runs until Dec. 20, with the grand draw on Dec. 20.

The mall will also feature holiday activities. There will be a 40-seater Thomas the Tank Engine, which will go around the mall tomorrow and on Dec. 2, 8 and 9, 15 and 16, 22 and 23, 29 and 30. This activity, titled "12 Days of Christmas with Thomas," will allow kids to have a 10-minute ride for P7, but if you purchase any Thomas item from Page One or Kidz Station, the ride is free. For those who love fairy tales, see an original children's play, "The Greatest Gift," which will run twice a day on Dec. 8 and 9, 15 and 16, 22 and 23, 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Musical performances will be held around the mall. Power Plant will also be offering anticipated Simbang Gabi masses for nine days at 9 p.m. starting Dec. 15 at the 2/F of the new Lifestyles Wing.

Power Plant Mall gives shopping convenience with a special gift wrapping and delivery promo. Beat the Christmas hassles by having your gifts wrapped and delivered through Mall Runner Inc. Call 892-4436/4554.

Call the Power Plant Mall at 898-1702.



SPANISH food at Menchie Mabanta's bazaar

Bazaars galore around town

HALLMARK, with Worldbex Services International, will hold The First World Bazaar Festival Dec.19-25 for the benefit of ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Bata 163. On the festival's opening day, Hallmark will give away 1,000 bags of goodies to the children of Bantay Bata who will be attending the event. It will also provide the festival's entrance tickets.

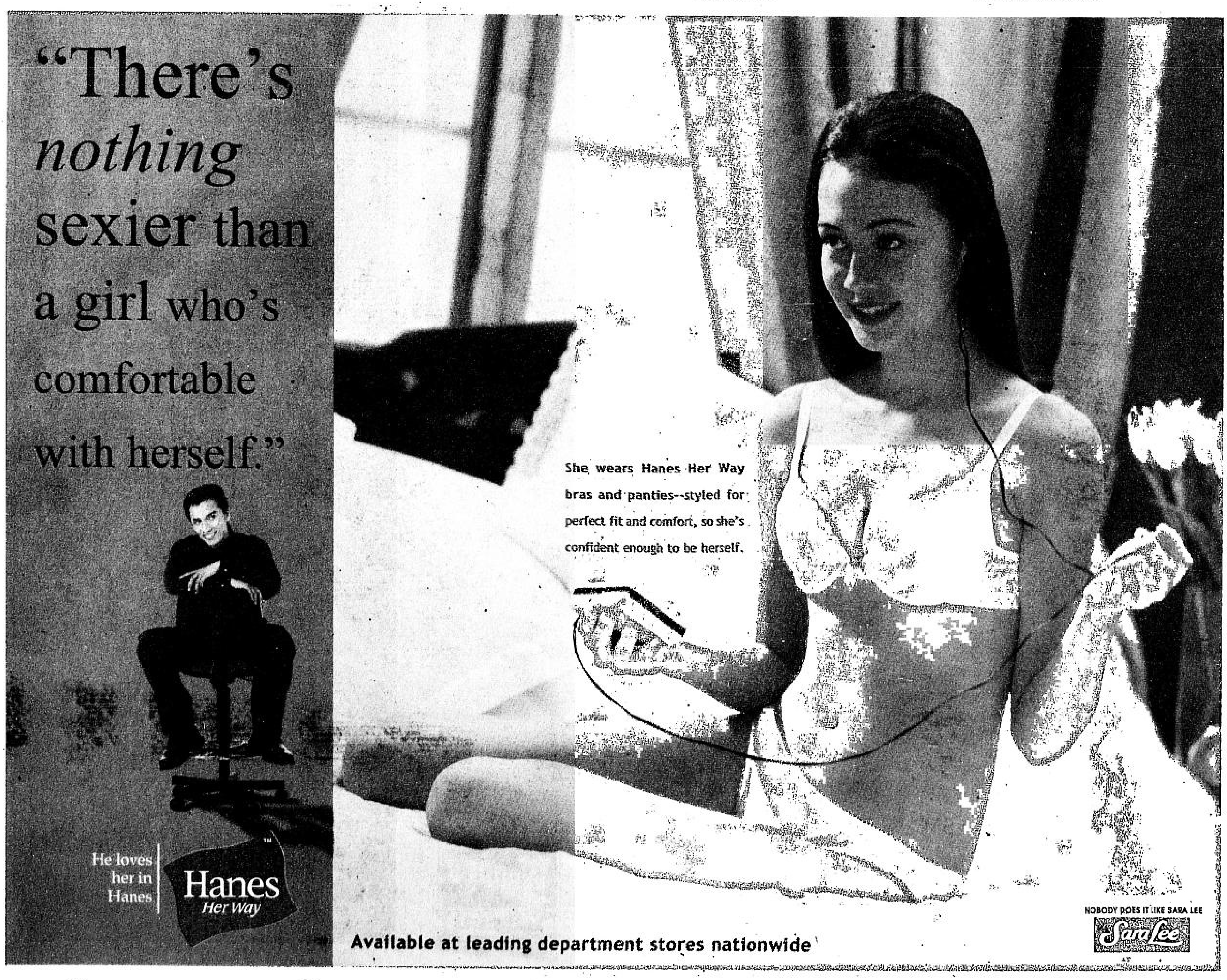
The bazaar will be held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, 2 p.m. to 12 midnight. Call 531-6374/6350.

MAKATI SPORTS CLUB. Handmade soaps and other body care products made from natural ingredients from Mint Basin, By Nature and Zenzest are among the offerings at Menchie Mabanta's FOB Manila 2 bazaar Dec. 1 at the Makati Sports Club. The bazaar accepts major credit cards and is sponsored by Casino Filipino and International Exchange Bank. The variety of items on sale range from gift certificates for Starbucks Coffee, which is participating for the first time this year, Spanish pastries, and assorted trays from Rowena Sy to "Concert at 90" CDs by Mother Frances Therese of the Child Jesus, the proceeds of which sale will go to the reconstruction of the Carmelite Ozamiz chapel.

DUSIT NIKKO. Celebrate the holidays with fun bargains at the "Import, Export Bazaar" today and on Dec. 1 and 2, at the grand ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko.

MEGATRADE HALL. The 1st Entreprenoy Expo-Gifts will feature Philippine-made handicrafts. The houseware edition is set Dec. 14-23 at SM Megamall. The items featured are ceramics, scented candles, decorative soaps, clothes, jewelry boxes, bags, fresh flowers, handicrafts, wood furniture, baskets, cutlery, dried flowers, Christmas ornaments, blown glass, chimes, paintings, rugs, aromatherapy candles, wood carvings, perfumes, herbal soaps, beddings, lanterns, lamp shades, wine racks, window blinds, topiary flowers, raffia fibers, vases, trays, native handbags, hats, frames, antiques, and towels. Call 873-8202/1198 or (0917) 540-0248 or the Cebu Office at (032) 232-3729/3740 or (0917) 322-1019.

LTEC. The Mikarla Enterprise, with the Social Security System, present the "Christmas Bargain Bonanza" Dec. 3-30, at the Livelihood Trade and Exhibition Center on East Avenue near Edsa, QC. Call 925-7212/7365 or (0917) 848-0612.



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Sara Lee

Style and quietude up on the roof

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

WHEN architect Gerry Contreras started renovating the family-owned 10-story building in Ermita several years ago, one of the first things he did was to check the roof. His main concern then was to keep it from leaking when it rains. His priorities changed the moment he reached the rooftop and saw for himself awesome vistas of Manila, including the bay, Rizal Park and historic Intramuros.

High above the city's din and pollution, Contreras felt like he had been transported to another world. Pockets of greenery to the North and tranquil waters to the East beckoned, while crisp winds crisscrossed the roof from all directions. Metro Manila's grimy buildings seemed spotless from afar; the smog that perpetually enveloped the city strangely absent.

"I fell in love with the scene as soon as I reached the roof," says the architect, who's also into interior design. "My creativity immediately went to work.'

Instead of waterproofing the roof and leaving it idle like what owners of adjacent buildings did, Contreras went several steps further by developing his property's rooftop by building a penthouse over it. "It's a good way to minimize leaks and maximize space," he says, referring to the penthouse. "Besides, it would be a pity to put this space to waste. The view is simply too spectacular to ignore."

Contreras used several architectural elements to achieve his vision: liberal use of wall-to-wall

STYLE/p. H4

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DEC 14-20 11AM-10PM
DEC 24 10AM-6PM
DEC 25 1 PM - 9PM
DEC 26-30 10AM-9PM
DEC 31 10 AM - 6PM
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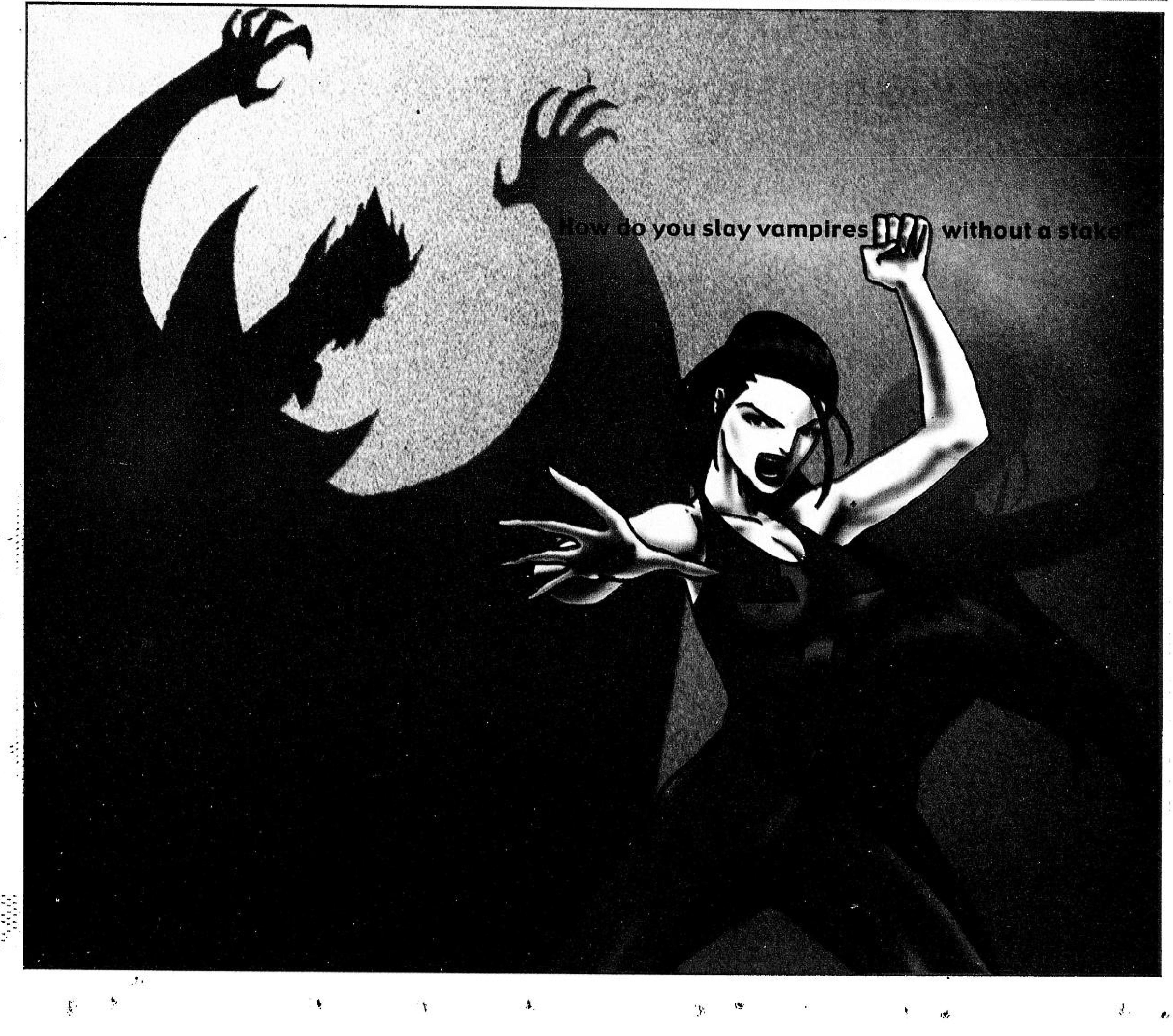

How do you slay vampires without a stake

A garden straight out of a country-western movie

By Tita V. Giron
Photos by Mike Alquinto

LANDSCAPING a rancher's garden was the biggest challenge in the career of Lorenz Inos, Nueva Ecija's young landscape artist whom we wrote about some months ago.

We agreed to visit this garden after hearing from his gloating parents, Mr. and Ms Lorenzo Inos Sr., that we somehow contributed to the success of their son's early landscaping career. Our more compelling reason, of course, was the irresistible lure of a cattle rancher's garden said to be set amidst rice fields with the lush mountains and the grazing hills of Cagayan Valley in the background.

The long tiring drive from Makati was easily forgotten at the sight and sound of the fully lighted garden of rancher couple Bebot and Aida Mejia. It could have been a scene straight from a country-western Hollywood movie. The wooden porch around the house, the slight rain, music and night insects all contrived to set the mood and setting.

Even the grass that carpeted the spacious Mejia garden was the famous blue grass of Kentucky. But the similarity ended there. The big difference was the innovative Inos landscape.

Garden landscape

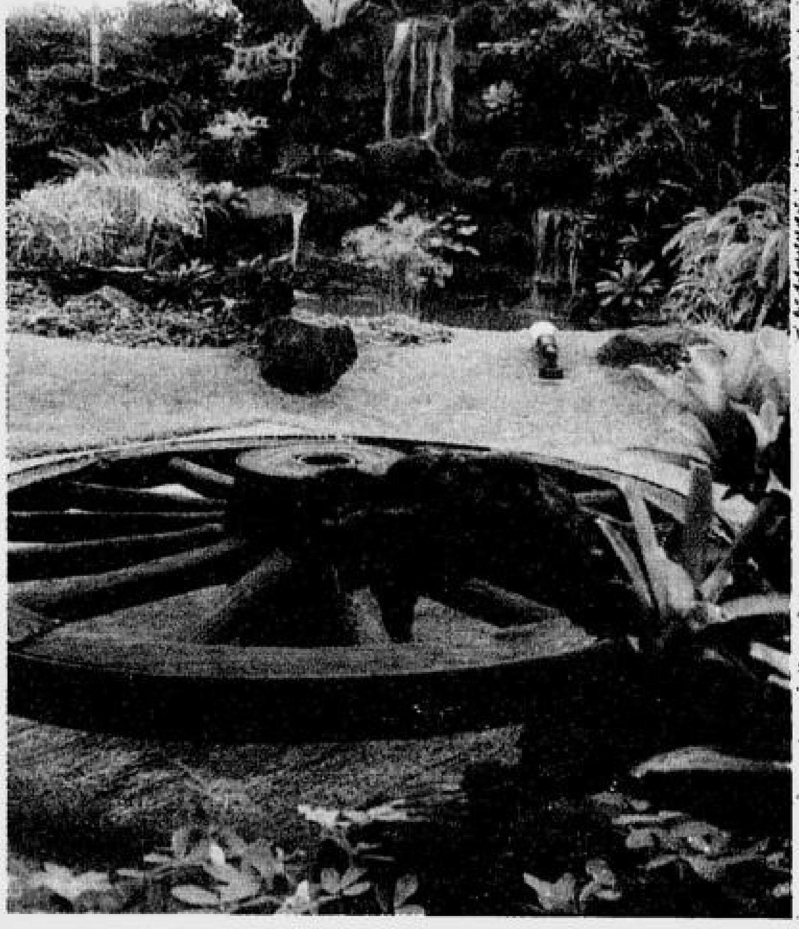
To break the monotony of the vertical space around the house, Inos created pocket gardens that were linked by skillful positioning of rocks, stones and antique pieces. Along the driveway to the main house was the topiary garden with Vigan jars and cartwheel. The main garden beyond was a coordinated sequence of palms, grotto of the Virgin Mary, water garden and Japanese garden.

A variety of exotic palms gave the gardens a very tropical look. The landscaper identified the following palms as champagne, ivory, Madagascar, phoenix, golden veitchii, bonga de Jolo and Hawaiian.

"To bring out the best look of champagne palms and make them live longer, the barrel-shaped part has to be scrubbed and cleaned. It makes them look neat and at the same time, it removes disease-causing microorganisms," he explained.

RANCHER'S garden at night

Lorenz Inos of Nueva Ecija handles well the daunting task of landscaping a rancher's place by blending the old and the new



ANTIQUE wheel spoke and natural rocks for garden accessories

For the north side gardens, he combined ornamental plants with orchids and native ferns. For accents, he used antique pieces that included the native *koloong* (farm animal's trough), *alsong* (mortar and pestle for pounding rice), and a wooden plow.

Inos also blended old and new garden varieties. Among the old favorites were *kamuning*, *pako*, *acalypha*, schefflera, song of Jamaica and ground orchids. Some of the new varieties we recognized were peace lilies, anthurium and different kinds of bromeliads.

Natural stones and antique items

"I love working in this garden because of the couples' fondness for antiques and natural rocks and

JOHN/ p.H3

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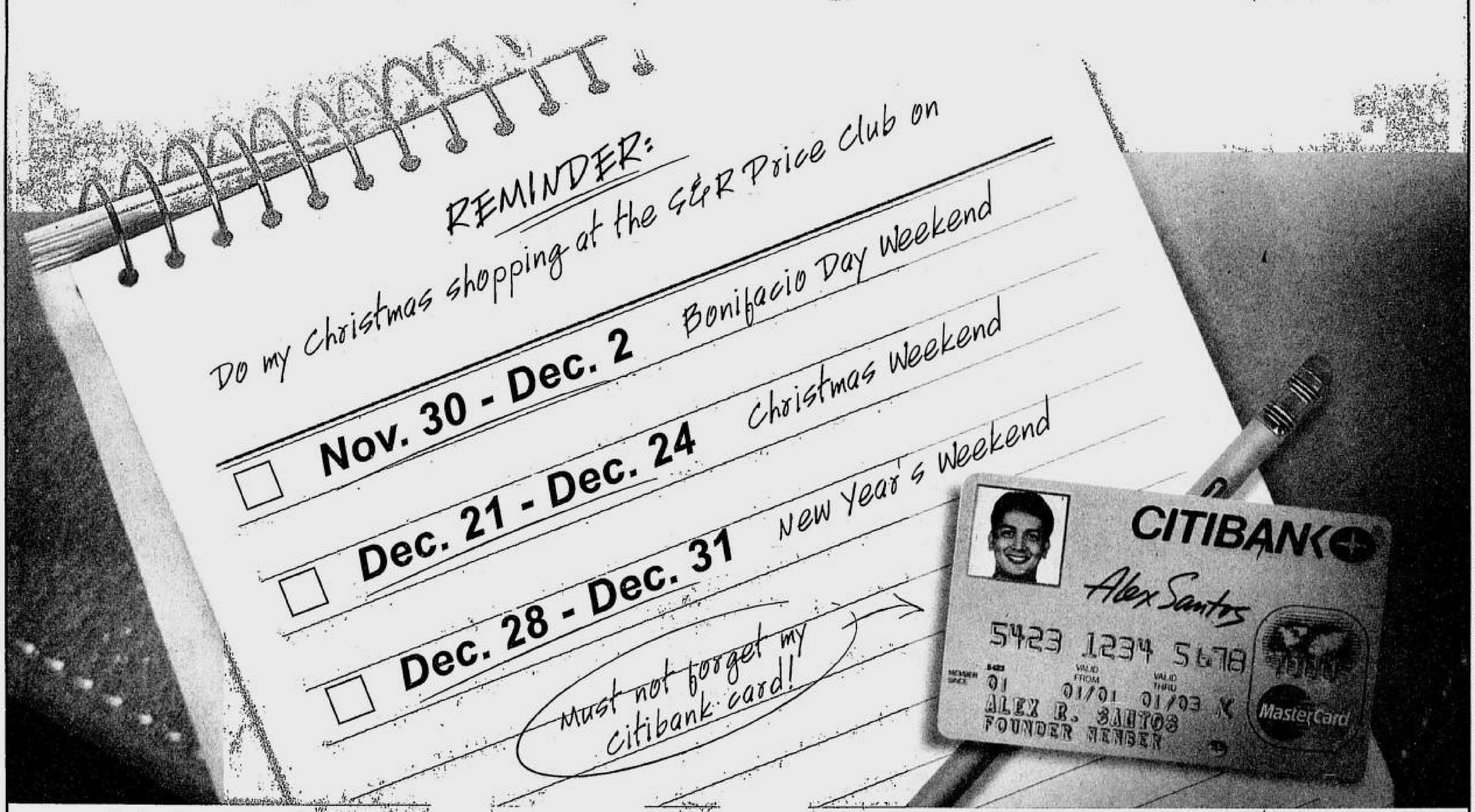
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YOUNG landscaper Lorenz Inos Jr.

A garden straight out of a country-western movie

(From page H2)

stones," Inos said. Bebot Mejia has a passion for collecting old furniture pieces made of *molave*, different kinds of *narra*, *kamagong* and other native hardwood. Long tables made of *narra* decked the long porch that aproned the house.

For footpaths in the garden, Inos made use of weathered railroad ties, *piedras* and natural river stones. Interspersed among the plants were jars, an old wheel spoke and wooden bench.

The rocks are evidently the distinctive features in the rancher's garden. Some are rarely seen, or never at all seen, in Metro Manila gardens like the weather-beaten pieces that are hard to miss because of their distinctive marks.

MR. and Ms Bebot Mejia at their garden

Just as interesting as the odd assortment of the weathered rocks is where they come from. While some of the pieces were gathered and hauled from the Mt. Province, from Nueva Ecija and La Union, many of the unusual pieces came from the rolling hills of a neighboring mountain owned by the rancher.

"Interesting rocks are scattered all over the place, ready for the picking," Inos related.

Garden-crazy couple

"Their passion for plants is the main reason I enjoy doing this landscape," Inos said. The Mejia couple buys plants from everywhere and they personally take care of them, he added.

Live plants in antique planters decorate the different rooms of the house. Some are on the tables, others perch on the rafters of the kitchen and dining area. Tall plants occupy the corners of the floor.

The couple maintains a greenhouse at the backyard where plants are kept and propagated. Although a full-time help takes care of the greenhouse, Bebot Mejia visits the plants regularly. He has varieties of anthuriums and heliconias that supply cutflowers for the house. Rare ferns obviously occupy a special corner of the greenhouse.

In spite of the hectic schedule of the couple, they surprisingly have time for their plants. Watering the garden is one of the pleasures of life, they said. They're not only into cattle ranching, but they have other businesses to run including two drugstores and farm feed stores. They're also active members of various organizations and are into outdoor sports.

Need we say that their garden is the source of their energy and good spirit?

For gardening ideas, landscaper Lorenz Inos can be contacted at 0918-5103412 and 0919-2001832 or at the Nueva Ecija Tropical Garden at MV Gallego Compound, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City.

Garbage solution creates greater problem

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THE MAYORS of Metro Manila are getting ready to give the nod to the use of incinerators to solve the city's garbage problem. Horrendous as the problem may be, Leonarda Camacho sees incinerators as a more horrendous solution.

Camacho, founder and executive vice president of the Metro Manila Linis-Ganda, an organization of junk dealers who collect, buy and sell recyclable waste, asks: why burn paper? For that matter, why burn plastic, cans and glass bottles? These are made from our natural resources, which are fast disappearing. To burn them would be to lose those resources altogether.

For every ton of paper burned, Camacho says, you are cutting 17 trees in the forest. Burn plastic and you are wasting oil. Tin cans come from iron ore while glass bottles require silica from sand in the seas. Burning them is, in effect, burning nature.

Camacho and all environmentalists like her are saddened that many people still don't get it—that we must return to nature what nature has given us.

For years now, she has been advocating a more practical, less costly means of garbage disposal, especially applicable to Filipinos. This is an exhaustive segregation program to be strictly implemented and monitored by local governments. Segregation is simple, she says, and it can also contribute to the so-called underground economy (which should not be misconstrued as an offense but as an honest-to-goodness source of additional income for families).

Good for the economy

Among those who benefit from segregated garbage and its collection are the junk dealers and operators who make a living out of buying and selling disposable. This helps the economy because it cuts the costs of importing raw materials. Incinerators won't boost family incomes. Instead, it completely destroys potential recyclable.

Camacho ticks off some facts: 18 paper mills, 16 plastic recycling plants, five glass factories and five steel mills in the country will save on production costs, dollars and energy because they buy scrap instead of importing raw material.

Segregation, Camacho stresses, must start at home. If it is done daily and on a regular basis, it can easily become a habit. But it is essential that local governments actively participate in the program, starting with the enactment, not of laws allowing use of incinerators, but ordinances mandating the segregation.

All it takes to segregate are three containers. She has said this again and again, but because there is urgent need to instill the idea into people's heads, we repeat them with her.

One container could be a *bayong*, sack or plastic bag to hold all kinds of paper (except carbon paper and gift wrappers of the aluminum type); all kinds of plastic (except polystyrene, tetra and day packs); aluminum cans; glass bottles (broken or whole); cosmetic and medicine bottles. These can be sold to the nearest junk dealer or to Linis- Ganda.

The second container could be a big biscuit can to hold all food waste together with animal and garden wastes. This should be converted into compost in the backyard. If there is no yard space, the local government must make sure there is a municipal composter where all collected waste of this kind can be made into compost.

The third container may be a plastic trash bag to hold hazardous waste like disposable sanitary napkins and diapers, toilet paper, bandages and dressings, rags, ball and marking pens, toy and flashlight batteries, and everything that is not organic, recyclable or returnable to factories. Such hazardous waste may then be fed to a hydromex machine that converts these materials into hollow blocks and paints. The local governments could build the machine and make the products available for municipal use.

Infrastructure

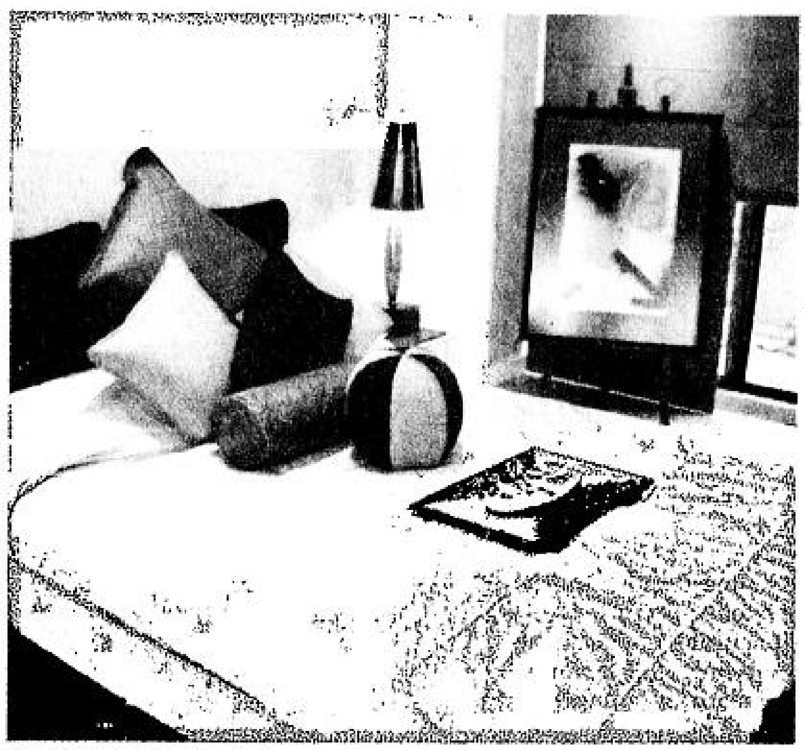
Local government units (LGUs) should also build digester tanks in their respective markets and slaughterhouses to convert market wastes into methane gas for use directly in the market and slaughterhouse.

Besides the digester tank, LGUs, as well as the national government itself, are urged to build one large tire shredder to be placed in the *bodega* of the Department of Public Works and Highways on Edsa where the estimated 300,000 rubber tires that go to dumpsites annually are shredded and mixed with asphalt to make durable roads.

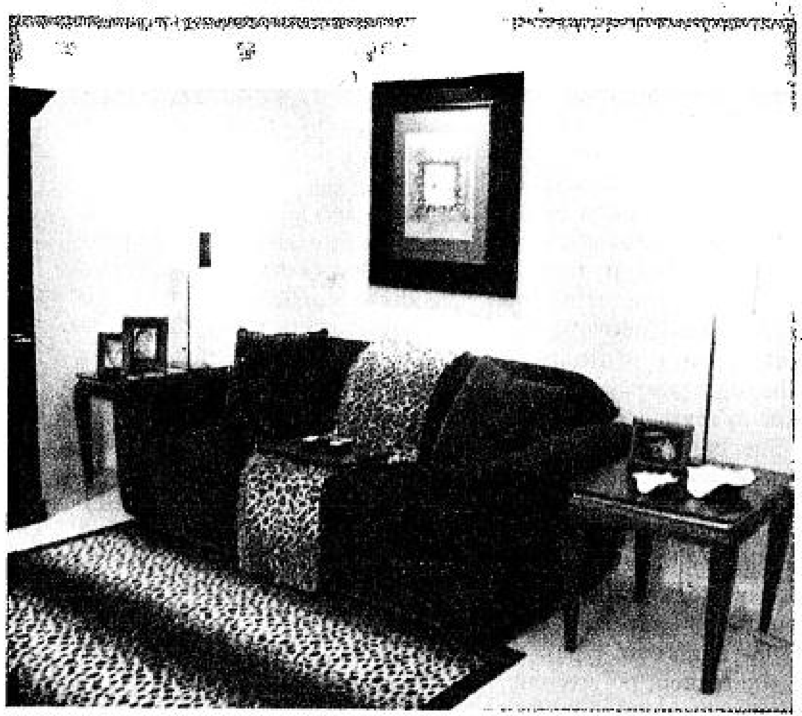
Camacho's proposals stagger the mind in their simplicity. And yet, she must keep on hammering them on LGUs so that composting plants can be built in every city and town in the country. No wonder she is more emphatic than ever to let these officials know that the only real, practical solution to our garbage problems is through the recovery of solid waste. Incineration can only create another problem—air pollution, which would be ironic as the Clean Air Act was passed not too long ago.

The mayors obviously believe, she says, that incineration will make our garbage disappear in a hurry. Garbage will all go up in smoke fast, it's true, but then so will our environment.

How do you
battle gladiators
without
an
axe?

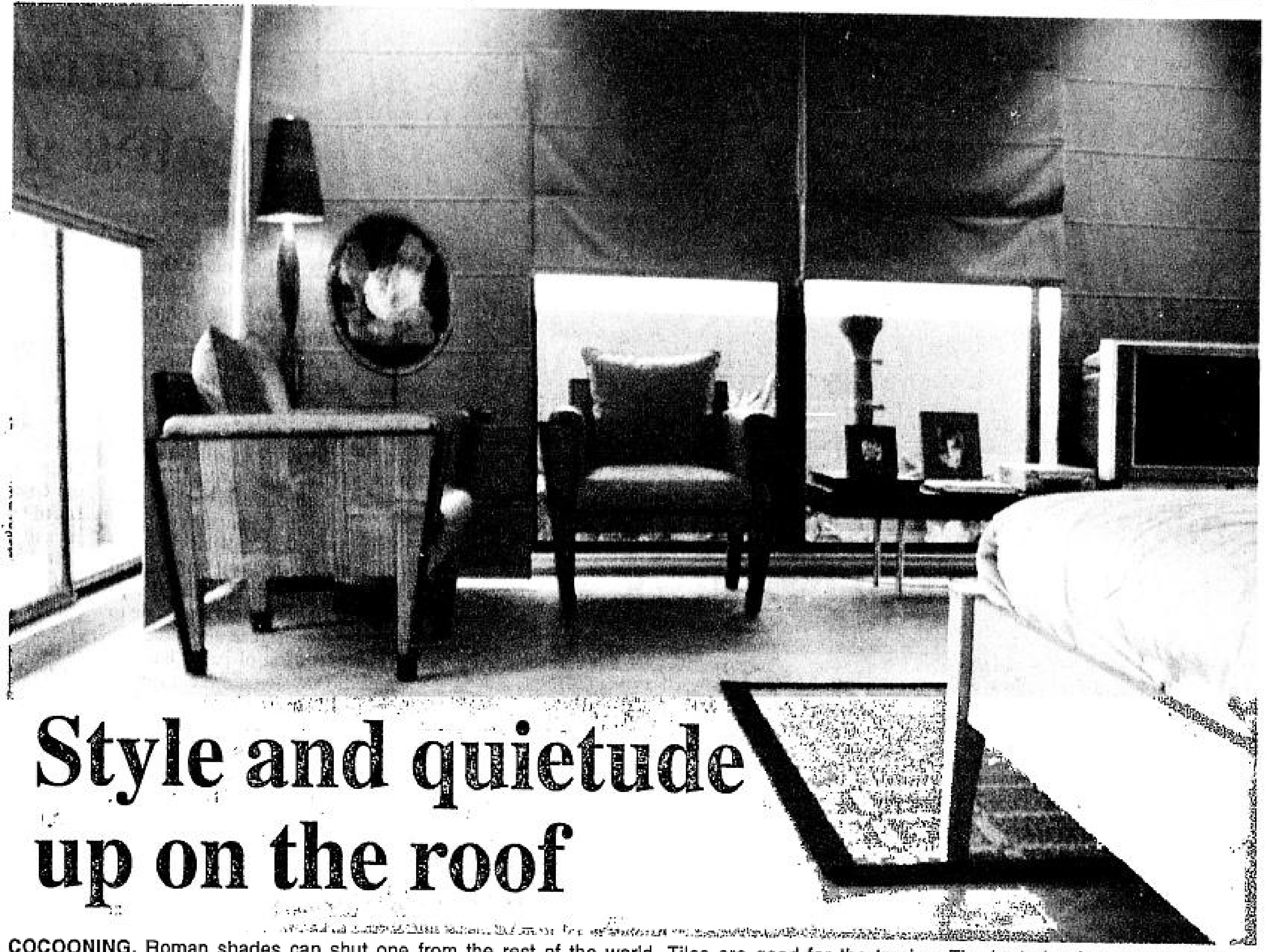


THE HIGHLIGHT of the simple bedroom is the artwork by Gus Albor displayed on the easel.



THE TOUCH of daring is manifested in the animal print that contrasts the antiseptic look of the place.

Style and quietude up on the roof



COCOONING. Roman shades can shut one from the rest of the world. Tiles are good for the tropics. The bed also features Sason's trademark split bamboo with *kamagong* used on the armchair.

(From page H1)

glass panels, sprawling living spaces devoid of divisions, absence of any column that may mar the view, and an elevated balcony that doubles as a series of pocket gardens by the perimeter railings. Two flights of stairs in the glass-lined foyer lead to the architect's bedroom, a glass-lined space that mimics structural elements found in the living room.

"It could get windy up here," he says, pointing to the outdoor garden. "For safety reasons, I had the pots bolted to the floor. I certainly don't want to be sued if someone is hit by falling object." Hardy, "low-maintenance" plants such as Boston ferns, Phoenix, fichus and water plants teem, their off-white pots and ceramic tiles accented with off-white *batong buhay*.

No terra-cotta pots here. Contreras had the pots painted in off-white to match the color of the sturdy floor and stones. "I want to achieve continuity," he says.

To soften the glare from the afternoon sun, Contreras used Roman shades with matching valances made of lowly *cacha* accented with black trimmings. "I just roll them if I feel like imbibing the world outside," he says. The same black device edges several area rugs made of *abaca* set in the living room, dining area and bedroom. Indeed, his choice of white, beige, black and various earth tones for the floor, walls and ceiling unifies the eclectic assembly of Filipino-inspired and stylized furniture and accent pieces.

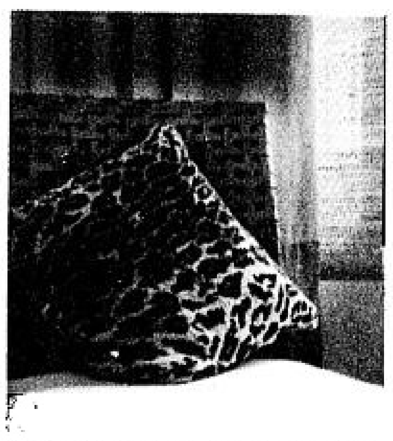
Lighting does wonders to enhance a living space, and Contreras certainly knows how to use lighting to maximum effect. The central beam in the living room and several faux beams connected to it double as cove lighting. The architect eschewed gaudy chandeliers in favor of directional lights that occasionally dot the ceiling.

Friends thought Contreras would go for a European-inspired look, complete with padded furniture wrapped in bold fabrics, intricate carvings, Gothic wallpaper and dizzying wrought-iron work. Just like what most clients wanted. Contreras, however, has had enough of these. "After working on all kinds of houses," he says, "a part of me longs for simplicity. This, I dare say, is the real me."

Imaginary divisions

His ability to fuse form and function spills over to imaginary divisions. The dining area, for instance, is elevated from the spacious living room, which, in turn, is divided into two sections by a concrete beam above and a dark console table directly below. Not only did it break the ceiling's monotony, the beam actually serves a structural purpose: it keeps the expansive ceiling from caving in from its own weight.

Building a post to support the ceiling would have been the easiest and most logical thing to do, but not if Contreras could help it. "A column would have obstructed the view," he reasons. He also worked around an existing structure, this time in the dining room. The steps leading to the elevated area actually conceal a structural beam that holds the building together.



MIXING TEXTURES. Leather woven chair, leopard-printed throw pillow from India and split bamboo roll-up screen

But why such a huge living room? Contreras, who also owns a home in an exclusive village in Makati, envisioned his penthouse in Manila to function as an executive lounge where friends and clients could meet. Except for certain accessories, the two sections in the living room are mirror images of each other—from the low, winged black leather chair, high-back bone sofa that follows a sleigh's silhouette, to the glass-topped coffee table bordered by irregular bamboo tips.

"Such an arrangement, of course, serves an aesthetic purpose," says Contreras. "Instead of a divider in the middle, the low console table doesn't block the view and allows guest from both sections to socialize."

The 12-seat dining table also doubles as a conference table. Again, the dining set is also imbued with practical touches. Save for two Filipino-inspired host chairs, for instance, the rest of the chairs are wrapped in versatile *cacha*. For a moment, the off-white fabric seemed upholstered to the chairs. If one looks underneath, however, they're simply slip-on covers with Velcro fasteners.

"Depending on my mood and the occasion," he shares. "I could change the look without buying new chairs." With Christmas just around the corner, Contreras might yet opt for brighter, more opulent seat covers.

Another living room

Tucked in a corner of the house's first level is another living room that

STYLE/p.H6

DINING ROOM. Philippine mahogany laminated table is surrounded by Italian chairs that are covered in muslin fabric. The host chairs are made in the Philippines with bamboo accents. The center topiary is a Christmas décor made of jute, *sinamay*, shell and rope. Roman shades are made of muslin with black strips as accents.

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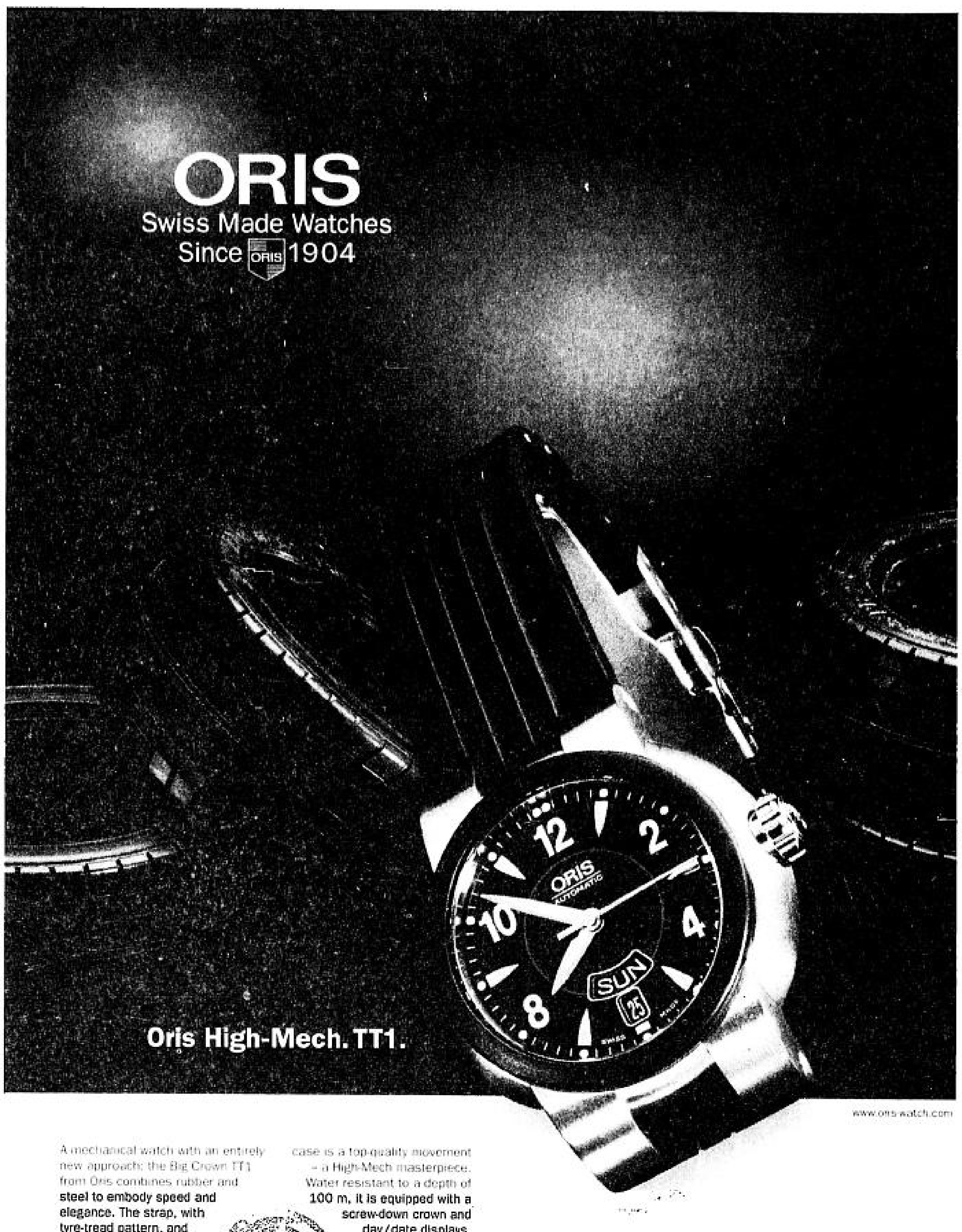

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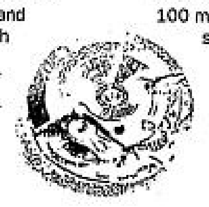

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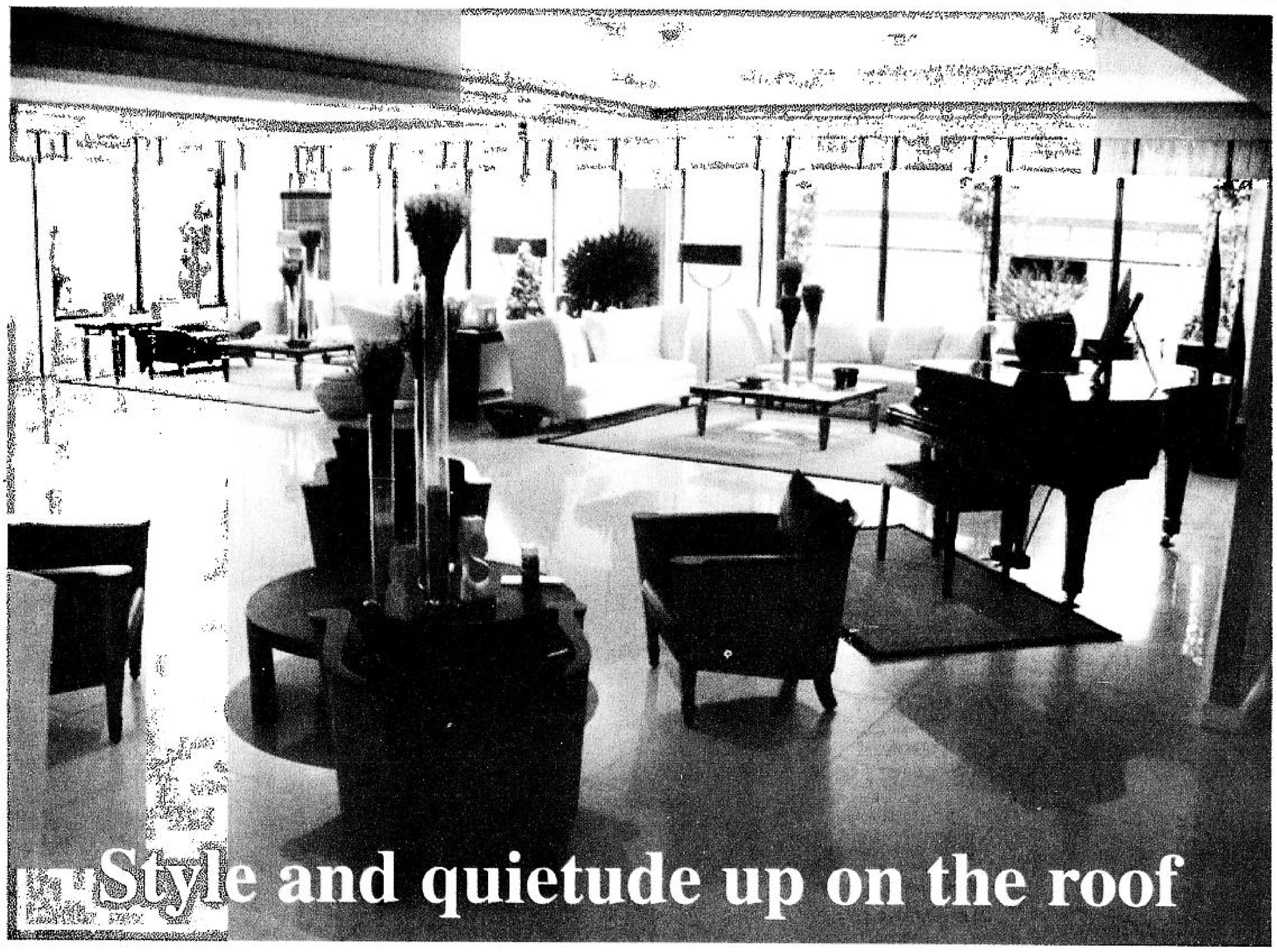


THE PENTHOUSE was expanded to show one continuous space. The place is made intimate by groupings of conversation areas. The quiet rectitude constrasts with Contreras' trademark over-the-top style. Everything is as proper as a lady with matte makeup and sprayed hair. The designer also shows his penchant for long vases, tall flower arrangements and anything erectile.

Style and quietude up on the roof

Gerry Contreras refurbishes a family-owned building by liberal use of glass panels and sprawling living spaces. The result is something aerie and pacific

(From page H4)

doubles as a guestroom. The room has a decidedly masculine feel, from the black sofa bed to the Safari-inspired accent pieces. An area rug, tissue dispenser, picture frame and several throw pillows seemed like poised to strike, what with cheetah prints splashed all over them. Not to worry. The faux prints, some of which were sourced locally, are harmless and quite reasonable.

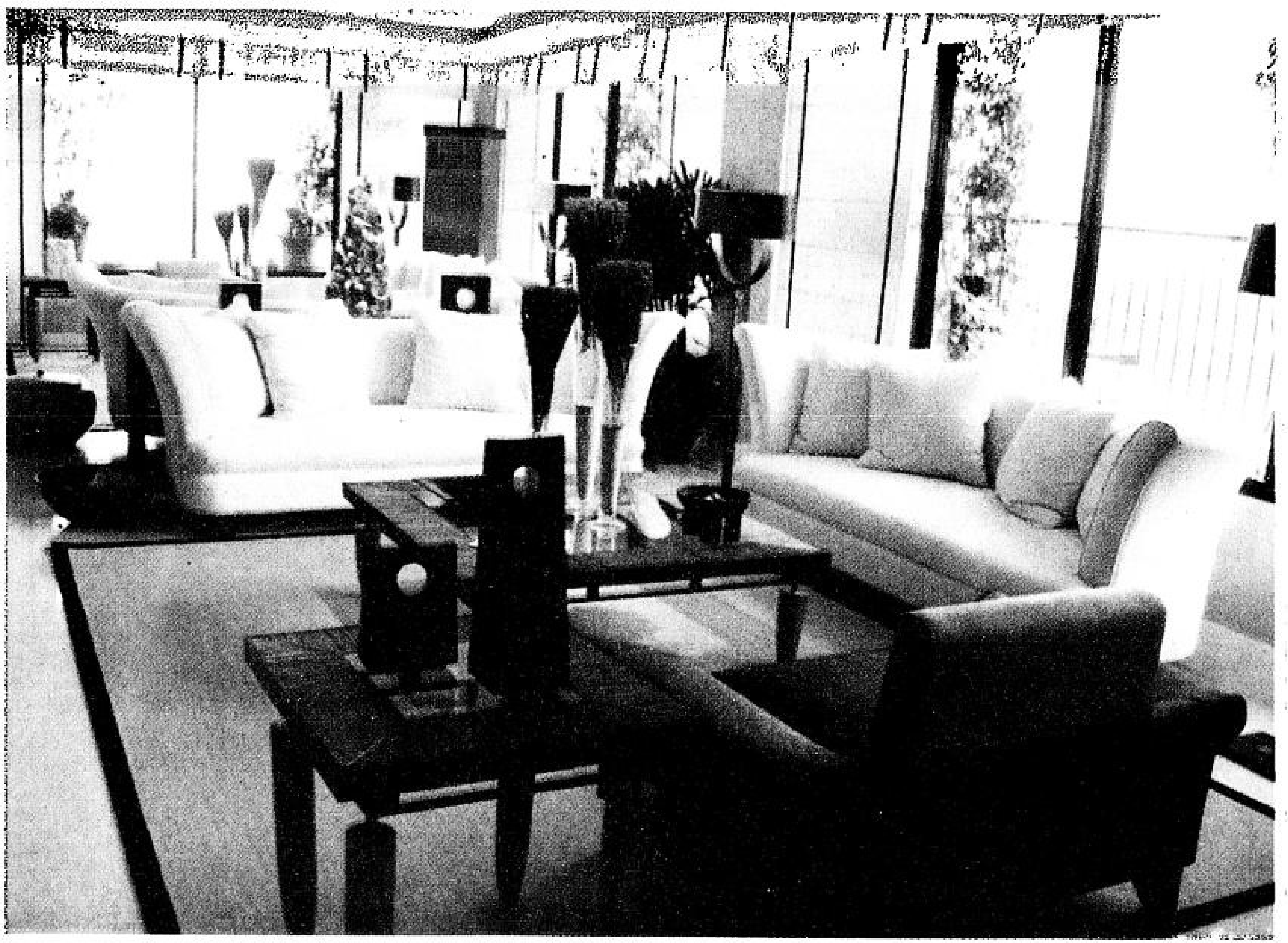
Indeed, assures Contreras, homeowners can do wonders with a limited budget provided they have enough creativity and derring-do to try something new. Several of Contreras' floral arrangements, for example, are made of indigenous *abaca*, *sinamay* and laminated bamboo. Several furniture pieces, like those featured downstairs, combine certain materials such as leather-upholstered seats, wooden armrests and crushed bamboo for a more textured look.

Certain artworks combine unlikely materials. Clay terra-cotta figures mounted on vintage wood and set on a leather-bound frame caught our attention, not because of the unusual combination of materials, but because of their odd shapes. Contreras insists that real snails inspired the figures, but our art director and photographer's wild imaginations think otherwise. (Hint: both objects, depending on one's inflection, have the same Tagalog translation.)

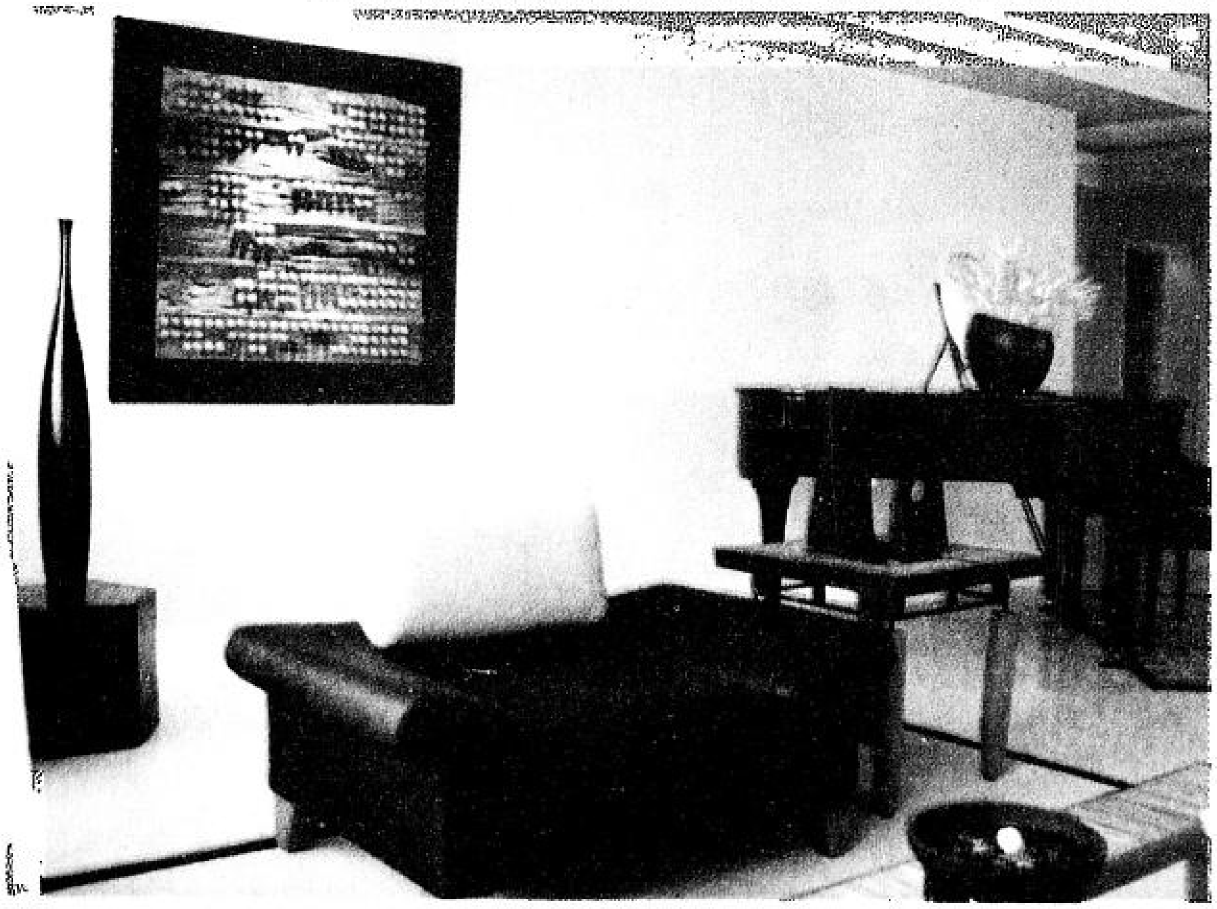
The second-floor bedroom also makes use of furniture and accent pieces made of a melange of modern and native materials: wood, leather, inexpensive fabrics and throw pillows slipped into brown *banig*. A couple of easy chairs designed by Bernie Sason, for instance, fused such materials as iron, wood, *cacha*-covered cushions and, of course, that signature crushed bamboo.

"I love these seats," says Contreras. "Whenever I wish to unwind, I just sit back, relax and enjoy the fantastic view outside." Manila has never looked this good up on the roof.

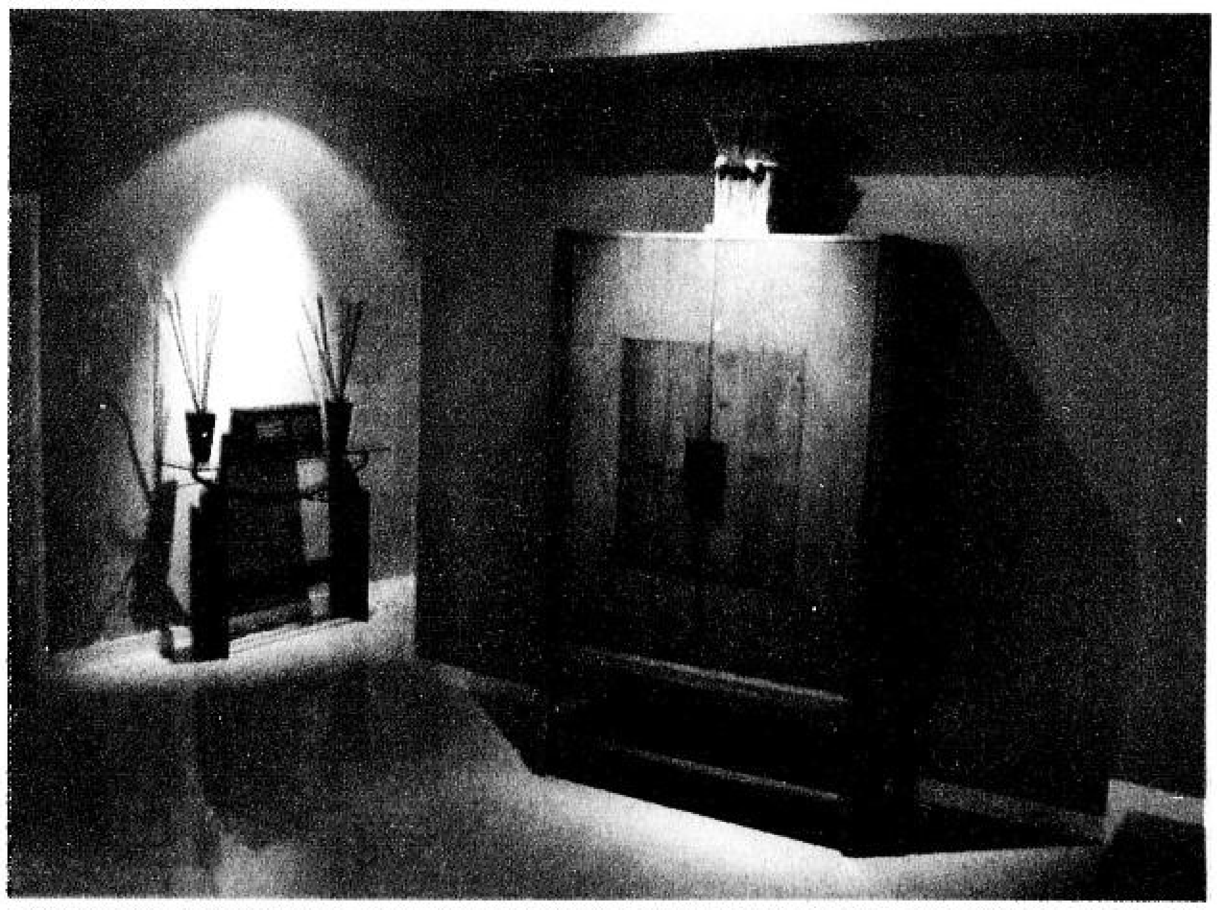
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



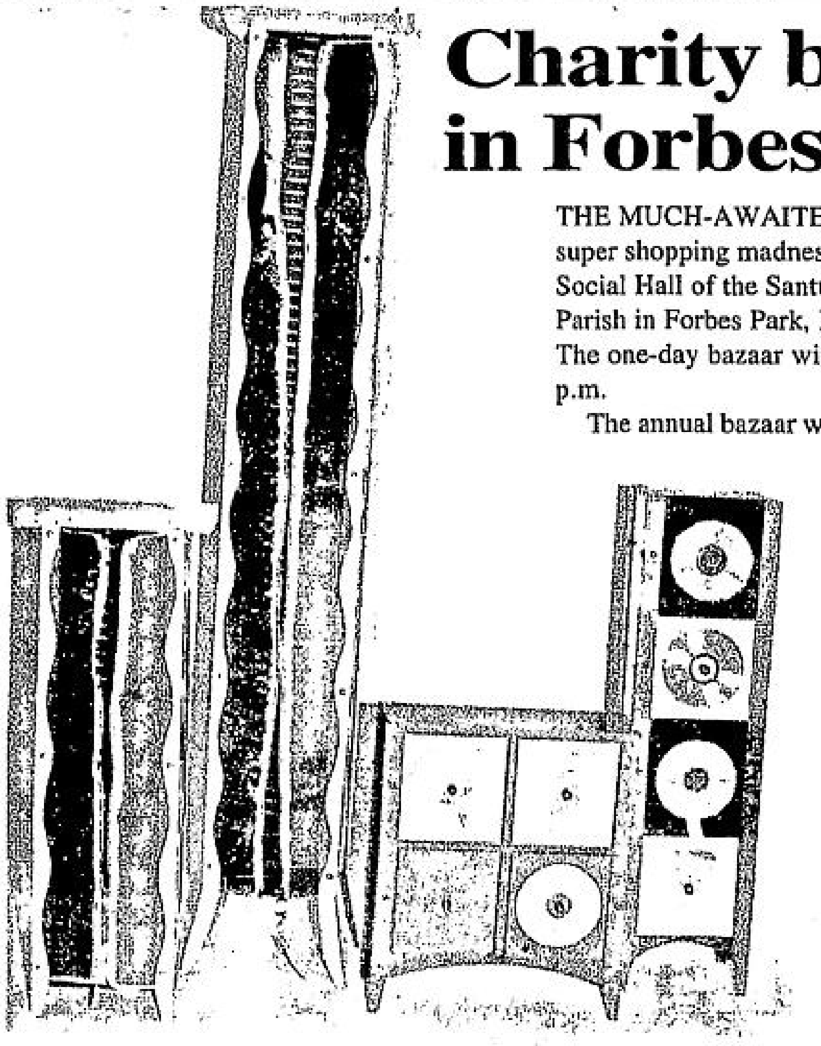
CONTRERAS shows his penchant for balanced symmetry and geometric shapes in his choice of accessories.



CHIC nook, what with the artwork by Bacolod furniture designer Bernie Sason that is in keeping with the appointments and bold armchair and sculpture by a Thai artist. A floating soffit hides the cove lighting system.



DESPITE the rectilinear lines and strict geometry, there's dynamism in this corner. The special feature is the beautiful cabinet by Sason who mixes unconventional local woods and creates cosmopolitan designs. Dramatic halogen lighting emphasizes the well-proportioned pieces that blend with the interiors.



Charity bazaar in Forbes Park

THE MUCH-AWAITED pre-Christmas super shopping madness will be held at the Social Hall of the Santuario de San Antonio Parish in Forbes Park, Makati City today. The one-day bazaar will be open 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

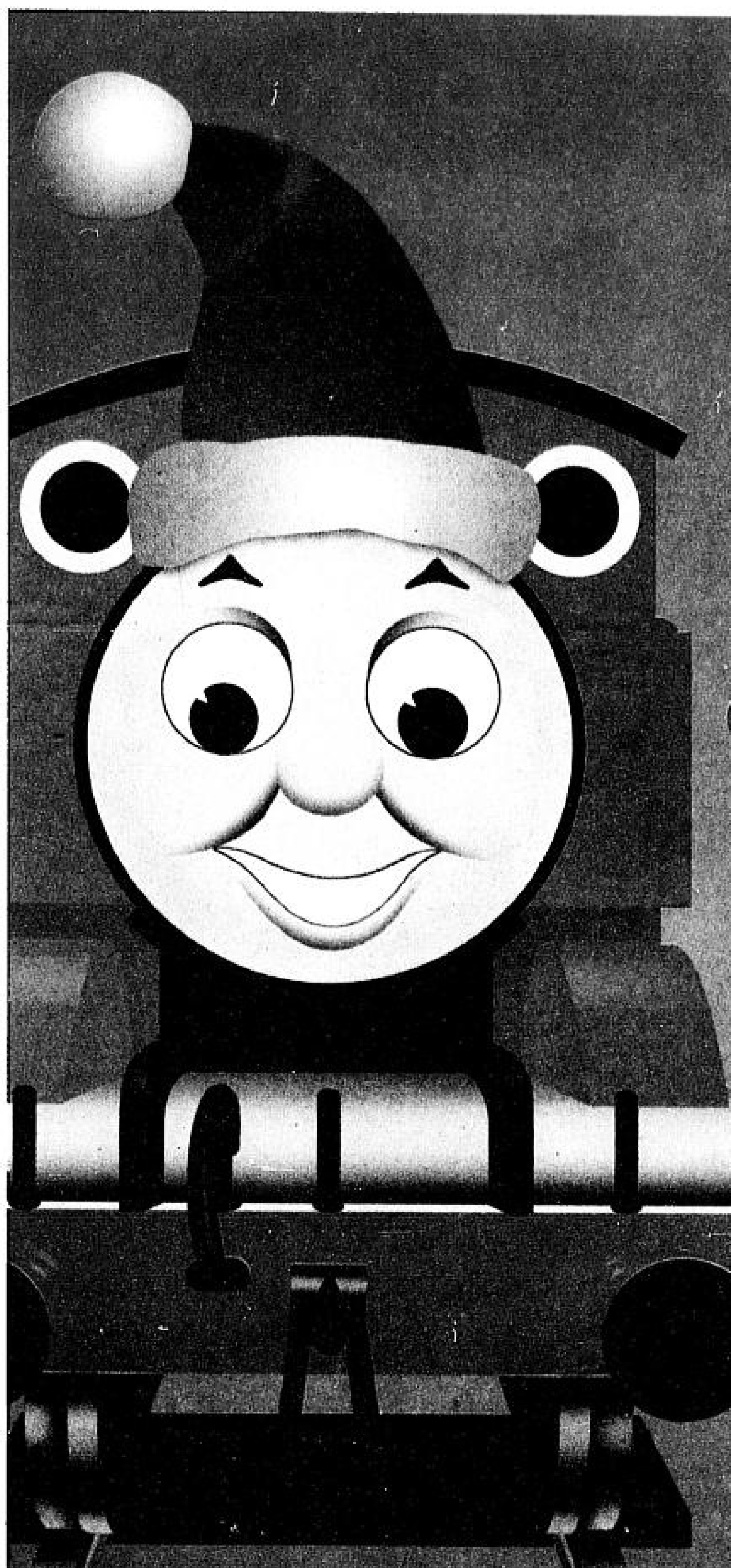
The annual bazaar will benefit Cefam (Center for Family Ministries), Carmel of the Immaculate Heart Mary in Naga City, Camarines Sur, the St. Paul Vigil House, Santuario de San Antonio Parish and the Filipino-Chinese Federation of Business and Professional Women of the Philippines.

Kiddie label to mark 'birthday'

TIWI The green bear, symbol of the Tupperware line for kids, will mark a birthday on Dec. 3.

Tupperware launched the Tiwi kiddie line to introduce more product innovations aside from its regular products. Existing products include the Baby Bag, Mini Swing Top Canisters, Feeding Plate, Feeding Bowl, Slim Sweet Box and Baby Bottle, all meeting the strict quality standards of Tupperware Philippines Inc.

Call 815-9625.



POWER PLANT
AT ROCKWELL
presents

12 Days of CHRISTMAS with THOMAS & FRIENDS

All Aboard! Come and ride Thomas at the Power Plant Mall on December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30, 2001 and January 5 and 6, 2002.

Tickets are available at the Thomas Ticket Booth located at the South Court (beside the Lopez Museum Shop).

Note: Children shorter than 3 ft. should be accompanied by an adult.

Come and enjoy Thomas Arts and Crafts Weekend Activities by KIDZ STATION.

Date: December 1 & 2, 8 & 9, 15 & 16, 22 & 23, 29 & 30, 2001 and January 5 & 6, 2002
Time: Between 1PM to 6PM.
Venue: South Court

Come and listen to Thomas stories being read at PAGE ONE.

Dates: December 8, 15, 22, 2001 and January 5, 2002
Time: 11AM - 12NN
Venue: Page One Bookstore Children's Section area

In cooperation with

PAGEONE

POWER PLANT

GULLANE

Join the fun-filled arrival party of Thomas & Friends
December 1, 2001 10AM
Power Plant Mall Multi-Purpose Area
Admission is absolutely FREE!

SMART zed™

...Simple! Just arm yourself with SMART zed

Killer GAMES

Now, you can turn your celfone into a stake, an axe or a gun in the newest games from SMART zed. Do battle against bloodsucking vampires, menacing gladiators and vicious outlaws, all with the push of a button. So send boredom to its grave with your SMART celfone. It's your weapon of choice.

VAMPIRE SLAYER:
Day turns into night as Dracul and his hordes spread their evil over the world. Armed with superhuman strength and a few handy weapons, the fate of mankind lies in your hands.

Vampire Slayer is a single-player, multi-thread adventure game. Each day, you are faced with a brand new adventure. A successful mission earns you 300 points and you are penalized 50 points for each failure.

GLADIATOR WARS:
It is 200 A.D. and Claudius has a tenuous rule over Rome. His generals squabble over territory. And as a gladiator, it is your duty to settle these disputes in the only forum you know - the Coliseum.

Gladiator Wars is a single and dual-player game. With each battle, you can choose to be a lion, a cobra or a gladiator. Each victory is 30 points. Each loss costs 20 points. Draws earn 10 points for each player.

DUDE RANGER:
The west is as wild as ever. And spats between outlaws and lawmen have reached boiling point. The Sheriff is six feet under, and that leaves you to deal with the desperados.

Dude Ranger is a single and dual-player game. You can be an Outlaw or a Deputy, it's your choice. A successful hit on your opponent wins the game and earns you 200 points. Get hit and it will cost you the same.

To register a nickname:
REG Bruno — Type REG <nickname> Ex. REG Bruno
288 — Send to 288.
Welcome to SMART zed's multiplayer game! You are now registered as Bruno. — You will receive a confirmation of your registration.

How to play Vampire Slayer:
VS PLAY — Type VS PLAY to play Vampire Slayer.
288 — Send to 288.
Accept the daily challenge. — Follow further instructions of the confirmation message.

How to play Gladiator Wars:
GW PLAY — Type GW PLAY to play Gladiator Wars
288 — Send to 288.
Accept the daily challenge. — Follow further instructions of the confirmation message.

How to play Dude Ranger:
DR PLAY — Type DR PLAY to play Dude Ranger.
288 — Send to 288.
Accept the daily challenge. — Follow further instructions of the confirmation message.

SMART Simply Amazing!

Only P 2.50 per successful message sent.
For more instructions on how to play, type <game keyword> HELP and send to 288. Ex. VS HELP.

Holiday Feast
Christmas Baskets
P250
P300
P300
P500
P850
CHRISTMAS HAM
*Wide variety
P1200
P1500
FRUIT BASKET
*Made to Order
P2000
P2500
SM GIFT CHEQUES AVAILABLE IN P100 & 200 DENOMINATIONS
Gift Cheque
100 PESOS
200 PESOS
SUPERMARKET
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HOW TO ORDER:
Go on-line & visit our website @ **www.smsupermarket.com** or visit any of our Customer Service counters to place your order. You may also call the following Customer Service hotlines for special arrangements:

SM Makati 8181081 • 8190405, SM City North Edsa 9224373 • 9224377,
SM Sta. Mesa 7161024 • 7161033, SM Megamall 6335026, SM Southmall 8000665 / 68,
SM City Fairview, 4176803 • 9393579, SM City Manila 5237180 • 5237435
SM City Bacoor (046) 4172637 • 4172796, SM City Pampanga (045) 9637941 • 9637942 / 44,
SM City Cebu (032) 2314696 • 2312555, SM Plaza Jaro, Iloilo (033) 3296405 • 3296430,
SM Valeria, Iloilo (033) 3369911 • 3369955, SM City Mandurriao (033) 3207940 • 3207944,
SM City Davao (082) 2975904 • 2975905, SAVEMORE Marikina 9413727 • 9413617,
SuperSale Club 9201714 • 9204919

Head Office Tel.: 6715504 • 6715503 • 6711171, Fax 6715895, e-mail: cservice@smsupermarket.com

Free theater workshop

GOINGS-ON

THE CENTER for Arts Foundation Inc. will offer free acting/theater arts and voice lessons. The workshop will start in January 2002. Topics include acting, dramatic criticism, improvisation, scene study and thorough studies in Asian and Western Theater. Its culminating activity will be marked by a public performance.

For voice lessons, extensive training in vocal techniques and practices will be included. The types of music will vary from different genres of pop, jazz, R&B, classical and Broadway.

Visit the Center for Arts at 11 Dama de Noche St., New Manila, QC. Registration is ongoing. Call 727-8347 or (0918) 783-8839 or (0919) 623-0949.

SEMINAR. Inner Space Brahma Kumaris presents "Know Your Fortune," 9-11 a.m. tomorrow, at 7484 Bagtikan corner Dao Streets, San Antonio Village, Makati City. Call 890-7960.

MOVING-OUT SALE. Paradise Orchids will hold a moving-out sale at the Manila Seedling Bank Garden Center Dec. 1-9. Featured are cutflower orchids such as dendrobiums, strap leaf vandas and semi-terete vandas. Call 929-3774.

FASHION EVENT. "Fashion for a Cause" will be held tomorrow, 7 p.m. at the Casimiro A. Ynares Sr. Gymnasium in Binangonan, Rizal. The creations of some of Binangonan's known designers, headed by Ronald "Aye" Lozada, Joel Niones, Gigi Lagarejos, Dante Quismundo and Tabas Tahi, will be featured in the dinner show. Proceeds will go to Binangonan street children. Call 451-1465/0146.

RECOGNITION. The National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines, headed by Dr. Concordia M. Pascual, will celebrate Mother's Day by honoring five outstanding mothers on Dec.3, 2 p.m., at the Escoda Hall, NFWC Building, 962 J. Ll., Escoda St., Ermita, Manila.

SYMPOSIUM. Legionaries from the parishes of San Juan, Makati, Mandaluyong, Taguig, Pasig and Pateros will gather for a one-day Marian symposium tomorrow at the Sta. Clara de Montefalco Parish Church on C. Raymundo Avenue, Caniogan, Pasig City. Call 642-3555/1475.

REUNION. The UP Ibalon Alumni Association is holding its annual reunion today at the Town and Country Estate Clubhouse in Antipolo, Rizal. Members are encouraged to bring their families and take part in the cookfest and fun games for children. Call Mill Tanchuling at 438-8774, (0919) 442-3864 or Sherry Palencia-Verzola at 922-2862, (0917) 535-9840.

CHORALE TILT. Family Reader Magazine is holding the "Hymns & Harmonies 2001" grade school chorale tilt tomorrow at the Cinema 1 of Shangri-La Mall. Competing schools are Rosehill, Holy Spirit, Colegio San Agustin, St. Scholastica Manila, Miriam, Woodrose, St. Paul, St. Benedict, De La Salle Zobel, St. Scholastica Manila. Last year, Woodrose bagged the grand prize, with St. Scholastica and Miriam in second and third place, respectively. Maricel Laxa will host. Call 631-2859. Tickets are available at the gate for P80.

PROCESSION. The annual grand Marian procession in Intramuros with over 50 images of the Virgin from all over the Philippines will be held Dec. 2, 4:30 p.m. It will start at Plaza Roma (fronting Manila Cathedral), pass through Cabildo, Aduana, Muralla and Gen. Luna Streets, and end at Plaza Roma with a Te Deum. Organized by the Intramuros Administration and the Cofradia de la INmaculada Concepcion, the procession celebrates the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Call 527-3138/2961.

PRAYER RALLY. Jesus Revolution Now! will hold a prayer rally at the Quirino Grandstand, Luneta today, National Heroes Day, to honor the thousands of living heroes in our nation.

HOMECOMING. The UP College of Business Administration (UP-CBA) will honor 10 alumni Dec. 2 at UP Diliman, QC for their outstanding accomplishments in business management, entrepreneurship and public service.

The awardees are: Lilia R. Bautista chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission; Quirino Rep. Junie E. Cua; Commanding Gen. Jaime S. de los Santos of the Philippine Army; former Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Dakila B. Fonacier; Flordelis Francisco-Arguenza, director of Asia e-Bank and Commercial Banking Group of Fleet Boston Financial; Florida P. Casuela, senior adviser for the Philippine National Bank at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; entrepreneur Victoria Bello-Jardiolin of Confetti Shoes and Natasha; Conchita L. Manabat, managing partner of CL Manabat & Co.; and Aurora Mauricio-Rubin, senior partner of the multinational Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. Call 926-0253.

PREVIEW SHOPPING SPREE
Promo winner Carmela Isabel Martinez (far left) gets fashion tips from Topshop's store manager Leslie Katherine Ong and assistant store manager Ricardo Ocampo. Martinez won P50,000 worth of gift certificates, courtesy of Topshop. Topshop is located on Level 2, Padre Faura Wing, Robinsons Place Manila.

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MAX Mura... MAX Tumatagal!

Available at all leading supermarket and retail outlets nationwide.

Also available POWERMAX ULTRA HEAVY DUTY

"Nay, ang laki-laki na ng apo n'yo!"

Sa SMART Link, ang sarap ng kuwentuhan mula sa kabundukan.

Nasaan ka man, matatawagan mo na ang iyong pamilya sa bagong SMART Link, ang kauna-unahang satellite phone para sa mga nakatira sa lugar na walang cell site o landline. Ngayon, mas madali nang makipagkamustahan at makipagbalitaan sa abot kayang halaga. Dahil ito'y satellite phone, di na kailangan ng mga kable o cell sites. Madaling ikabit kaya sa ilang sandali lang, may telepono ka na! Magtanong na sa pinakamalapit na SMART Wireless Center tungkol sa inyong SMART Link!

SMART Link

Powered by: SMART ACeS

Head Office: (02) 511-2297, 511-2646, 511-2286, 511-6226 Luzon: 0919-2205214, 0919-2895807 Visayas: 0919-2205548, 0919-2205547 Mindanao: 0919-2205812, 0919-2205528

Aggie Pinili, Account Manager SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH **Aries B. Espinosa**, Assistant Editor

Automatic CENTRE

GIFT CHECK MANIA

RAFFLE PROMOTION

OCT. 29, 2001 to MARCH 31, 2002

WIN! OVER HALF A ₱ MILLION WORTH OF GIFT CHECK PRIZES!

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT #1707 SERIES OF 2001

DREAMING OF THAT DVD SYSTEM?

Something big to look forward to this Christmas

CHRISTMAS is the time of year we always look forward to for nice presents and good tidings. As early as Oct. 29 2001, Automatic Centre has been offering something big for its customers this Christmas season.

Through "Gift Check Mania," customers who purchase items worth at least P1,000 at any Automatic Centre, Blims Fine Furniture, Sogo Factory Outlet and Sogo Home & Office Center branch can qualify to win the grand prize (a P100,000 gift check) in two major raffle draws.

IS THIS Neverland? Nope. The place is true and the offer is real.

Photos by BETOY JOHNSON

To be given away at the promo is over half a million pesos worth of gift check prizes that can be used at any branch of Automatic Centre, Blims and Sogo. Talk of Filipinos' penchant for gift check shopping. If you win, you may now be able to take hold of that entertainment or living room showcase you've been dreaming of. Visualize that big-screen flat TV, that sleek multi-function DVD, that sexy handcam, or that marvelous sofa to fill your living room.

The unique promo is Automatic Centre's way of rewarding its customers this Christmas season. Best of all, the promo also allows customers to win more than once in both raffle draws! No other domestic promotion gives customers the added opportunities to win.

Aside from the grand prize, there are five sets of prizes to win in the two raffles: first prize is one P40,000 gift check, second prize is two P20,000 gift checks, third prize is four P10,000 gift checks, fourth prize is eight P5,000 gift checks, and fifth prize is 25 P1,200 gift checks.

"Gift Check Mania" will run until March 2002, but the first draw on Dec. 28 this year will give winners the chance to upgrade their appliances in time for the New Year. Home entertainment appliances are always the most in demand this time of the year when customers can see new and fascinating products and also lots of items on sale. And these high-end or high-tech home theater systems or electronic devices aren't just for pure entertainment and relaxation. Nowadays, people invest on appliances also for their work, which is increasingly being done at home.

Aside from the "Gift Check Mania," Automatic Centre is also rewarding its customers through its "Win Your Dream Appliance" promo. Launched just last Nov. 23, the promo's mechanics are so simple. All the customer needs to do is go to any Automatic Centre branch and he or she will be given a coupon to write the appliances he or she would like to win for Christmas. The promo is open to customers 18 years old and above and the promo includes Blims Fine Furniture showrooms and Sogo branches as well. What's more—there's no required purchase here! Just ask the store personnel for your raffle ticket.

So what are you waiting for? Visit Automatic Centre today and make your dreams and wishes come true!

PARTICIPANTS

JVC
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3D

Digitally yours LG

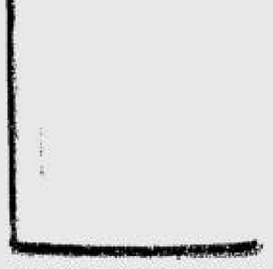
LG revolutionizes the washing machine...
with a counter revolution.

Conventional washer drum stays fixed during wash operations
LG Turbo Drum spins against the direction of the pulsator

Introducing the new LG Turbo Drum washing machine. Unlike ordinary washing machines, it has a rotating drum that spins against the pulsator. This creates a waterwhirl that cleans more effectively and greatly reduces tangles to help clothes last longer. To top it all, you can wash, rinse and spin dry all your clothes at a push of a button, thanks to its fuzzy logic control. Your lavandera has finally met her match.

ARIEL LG recommends Ariel
Better than hand-wash clean for your machine

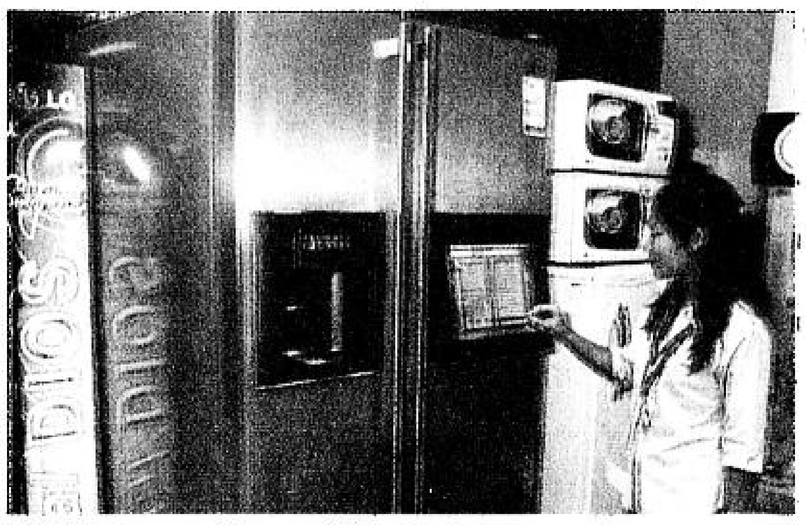
Washing Machine +3 TurboDrum



Available in 6 and 11 kg.models

LG Collins Electronics Manila No. 15 F. Legaspi St., Maybunga, Pasig City Tel. Nos. 641-4181 up to 85. Fax 640-0460. Customer Information Center: 640-2525

Automatic Centre sets style and trend in appliance retailing



THE LG Internet ref lets you chill, and surf.

THE HOME showcase that lets you see how your appliance will look like. The only thing missing is you.

YOU can't help but look at the home entertainment system elegantly arranged in a living room setting, complete with carpeted floor, soft cushions, pin lights and enamel painted background. You can't help but wish: "I want that flat TV and DVD system in my home!"

The "showroom style" of store layout is an innovation Automatic Centre has set up in its latest stores. The stylish arrangement of the appliances and furniture can be found in Automatic Centre@ayala, Automatic Centre in, Glorietta 4, and Automatic Centre in the new wing of Alabang Town Center.

Fifty-three years of serving customers has obviously made Automatic Centre focused on the needs of the customers, to help them picture as clearly as possible how a combination of appliances would make the house a home to relax and be entertained in.

Thus, Automatic Centre@ayala, the showroom on Ayala Avenue in Makati City, essentially, is the new face of Automatic Centre in the 21st century. Automatic Centre has raised the bar on what an appliance retail outlet should look like. It's not your typical store, which has become predictable and generic with shelves, racks and displays of audio-video electronics and home appliances.

More 21st century Automatic Centre showrooms are being planned in anticipation of the near future where the showroom will function as the place for customers to go to when they want to see, touch and know more about an appliance they want to order online. This also means that part of the plans of Automatic Centre is the establishment of an online store soon.

Initially, it's expected that the behavior of the appliance consumer is to really visit the physical store first—try the product, feel it, test it, enjoy it and then he goes home and orders through the computer.

Automatic CENTRE
Automatic CENTRE
Panasonic
SALE

THE SUCCESSFUL partnership between retailer and manufacturer is evident even before entering the store.

Since Filipino consumers are really lovers of audio and video appliances, making these products integral to their lives, the showroom's ground floor layout attracts them because upon entering, they actually feel the superb sights and sounds from top electronic brands.

On the lower ground floor, the latest cooling and cooking home appliances await customers. The star attraction is the Internet refrigerator, a 2-door stainless steel no-frost beauty with an LCD touch-screen mounted on the right-side door which hooks you up to the Internet (so you can access and download recipes, among so many other Web sites). The mounted touch screen also doubles up as a TV screen since there is a built-in cable-ready tuner so you can watch your favorite programs and channels.

Automatic CENTRE
GIFT CHECK MANIA
RAFFLE PROMOTION
OCT. 29, 2001 to MARCH 31, 2002
WIN! OVER HALF A ₱ MILLION
WORTH OF GIFT CHECK PRIZES!
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT #1707 SERIES OF 2001

Panasonic
The Poetry of Sound.
SC-PM08

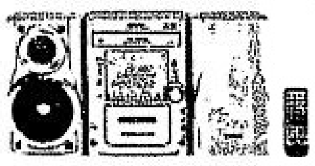
Experience high definition surround sound from your personal Panasonic Micro Component. What's more, it's the only one in its class with DVD.

I like my Panasonic!

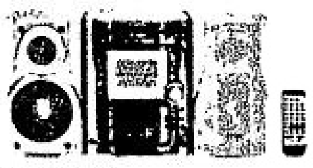
• Compact DVD / VCD / CD / Tuner / Amp System with 5 Speakers • Built-in Dolby Digital Decoder and 7-Ch Amp System • Super Woofer Drive System with Advanced Bi-Amp Bi-Wiring Configuration

VCD Models

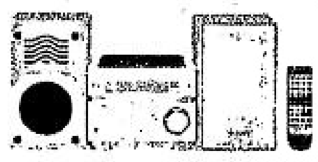
with MP3 Playback



SC-PM141
- Micro System 5-VCD/CD Changer
- PMPO: 1000W/50W x 2 (RMS)

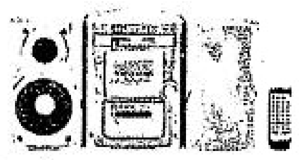


SC-PM111
- Micro System 5-VCD/CD Changer
- PMPO: 1000W/50W x 2 (RMS)

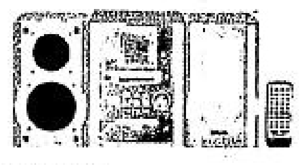


SC-PM06
- Micro System
- Single VCD/CD Player
- Motorized Top Open Panel with Blue Disc Light
- 14W x 2 (RMS)

CD Models



SC-PM11
- Micro System 5-CD Changer
- PMPO: 1000W/50W x 2 (RMS)



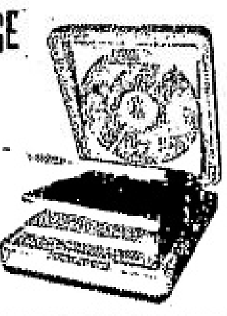
SC-PM25
- Single CD changer
- PMPO : 20W x 2 (RMS)

Audio Video Blast!
August 16 - December 31, 2001

Get 3 VCD Movies FREE

For every VCD Mini Component (Model SC-AK122, SC-AK177, SC-AK10, SC-PM111 or SC-PM141)

Get a CD CASE FREE



For every CD Mini Component (Model SC-AK-22, SC-AK52, SC-AK10, SC-PM11 or SC-PM25)

Promo Mechanics
1. Customer must present proof of purchase (sales invoice or official receipt) to dealer salesman or customer service personnel where the Panasonic product was purchased to claim item.
2. Customer can claim item up to 60 days after end of promo period.

SEE PROMO STANDEE FOR DETAILS
Per DTI NCR No. 2638 Series of 2001
www.mepco.panasonic.com.ph

Life beyond the warranty

THE REFRIGERATOR you bought more than a year ago no longer chills the food to freshness. It's defective and needs servicing.

Too bad, the refrigerator's warranty is only for one year. If you have the refrigerator repaired, you'll have to pay for it—or buy a new one.

GO FLAT, for life-like images

But if you got the refrigerator from Automatic Centre, you won't worry about service charges for parts and labor even if your use of the appliance has exceeded the warranty given by the manufacturer.

Automatic Centre's Warranty Plus allows for extended warranty for your appliance from two to five years. And you pay only a small amount (a one-time payment) for the extended warranty based on the number of years you choose.

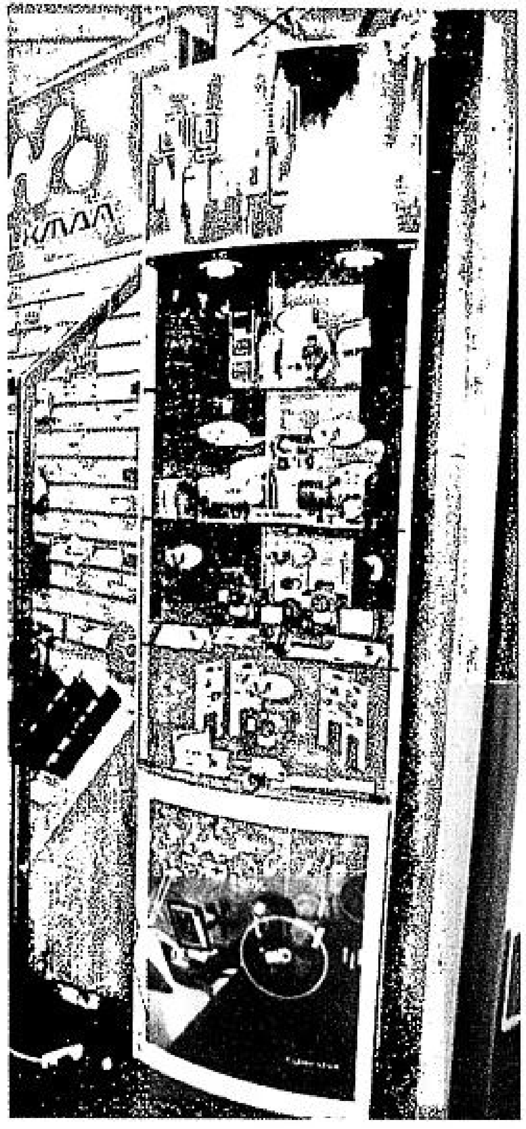
With Warranty Plus, you are provided with unlimited, worry- and hassle-free service. Just call the customer service hotline: 754-3515.

It's also transferable, which means that to whoever you sell or give your appliance to, he or she will benefit from the Warranty Plus coverage. Simply inform the hotline about the change of ownership.

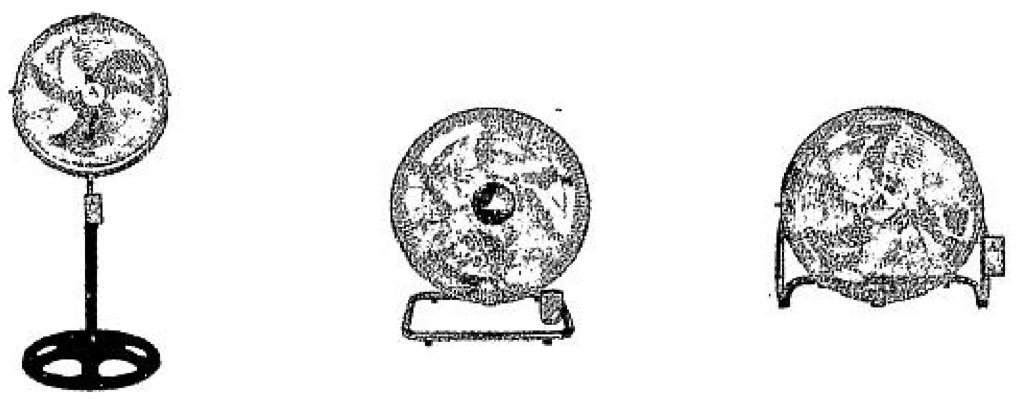
So when you buy an appliance from Automatic Centre, make sure you get the Warranty Plus. You'll have peace of mind on future repair bills and the product retains its value.

Automatic Centre also offers Replacement Advantage for the small appliances you buy. For example, if the coffeemaker you bought at Automatic Centre needs servicing after its manufacturer's warranty has expired, Replacement Advantage lets you replace the small appliance with a brand new one, at no extra expense.

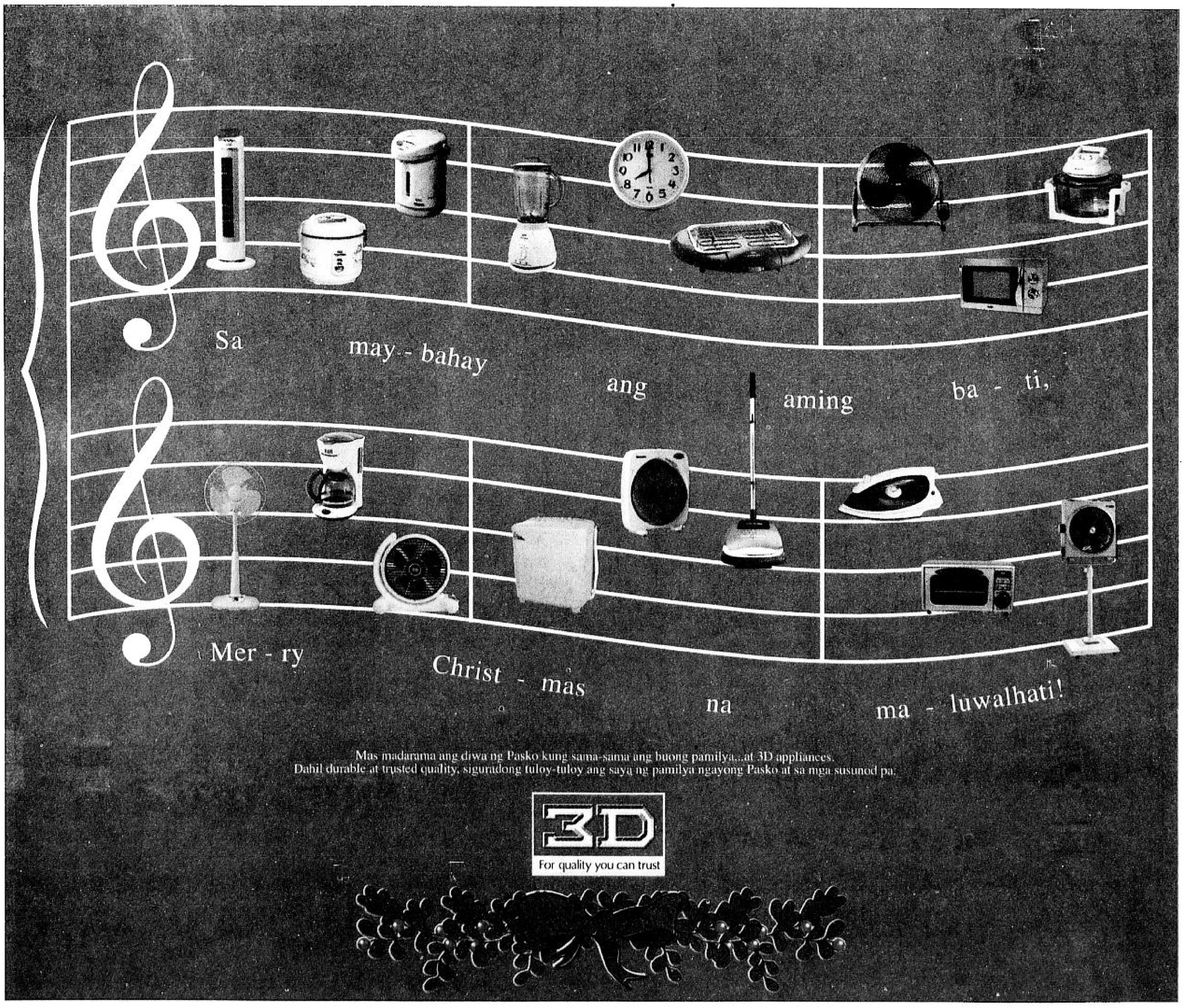
Indeed, Automatic Centre has by far the most advantageous extended warranty offering compared with other appliance retailers.



Heavy-Duty Heat Requires
INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH COOLING



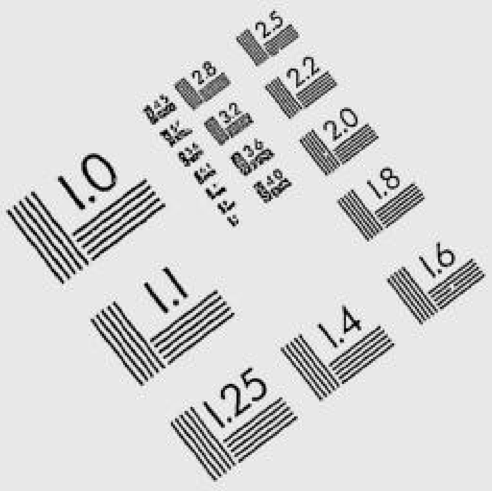
ISO 9002 QUALITY ASSURED FIRM SGS
CERTIFIED Product Quality
Powered by:
HANABISHI
Your Satisfaction is Our Guarantee
1-Year Warranty, Lifetime FREE Service!



Mas madarama ang diwa ng Pasko kung sama-sama ang buong pamilya...at 3D appliances.
Dahil durable at trusted quality, siguradong tuloy-tuloy ang saya ng pamilya ngayong Pasko at sa mga susunod pa.

3D
For quality you can trust

IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)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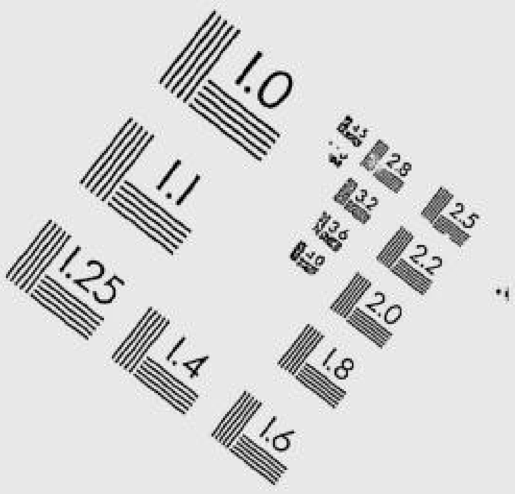
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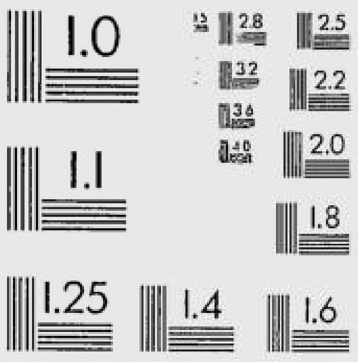
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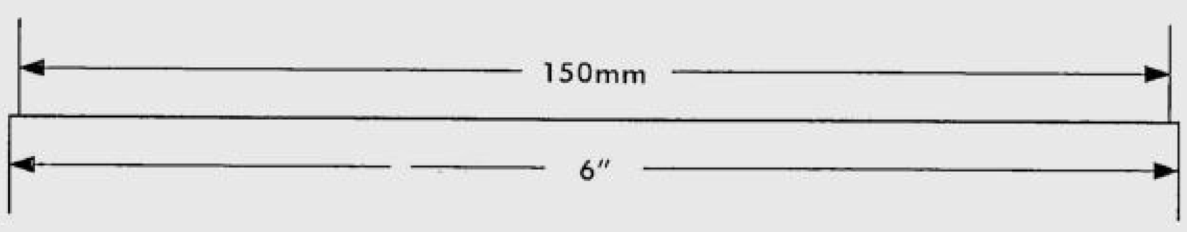

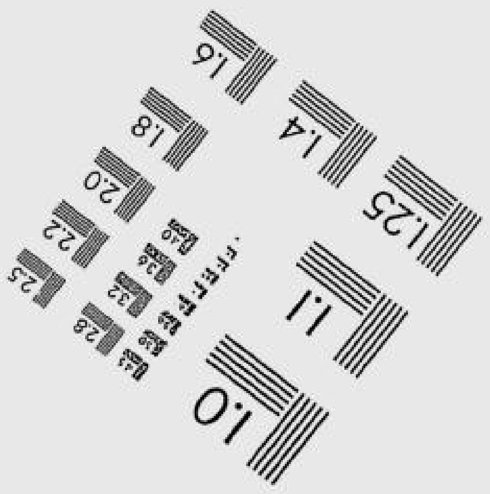
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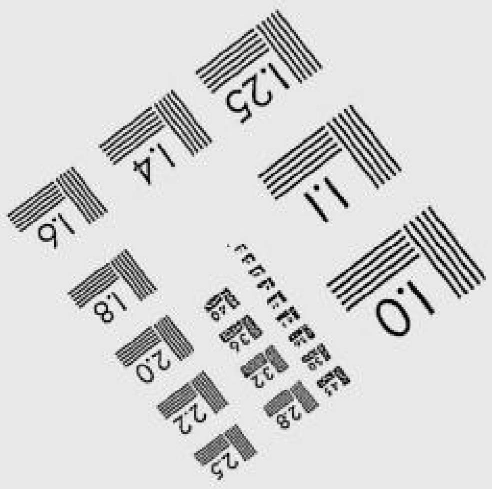
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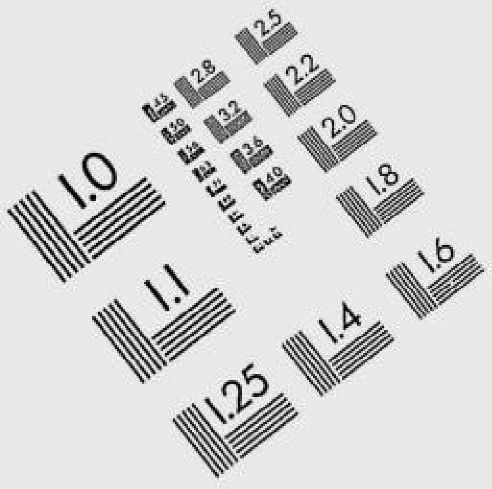
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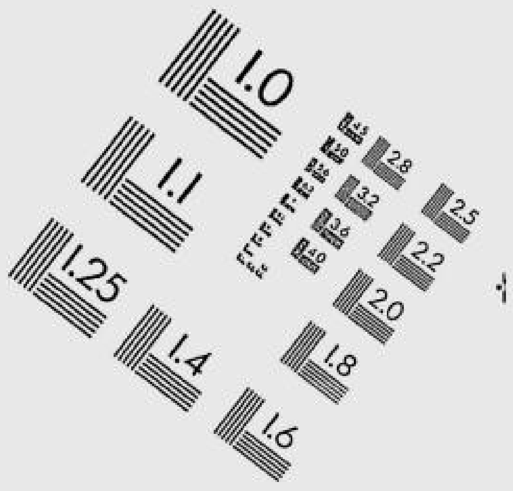
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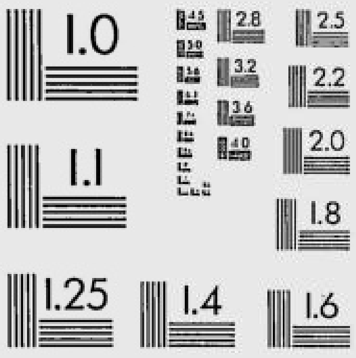
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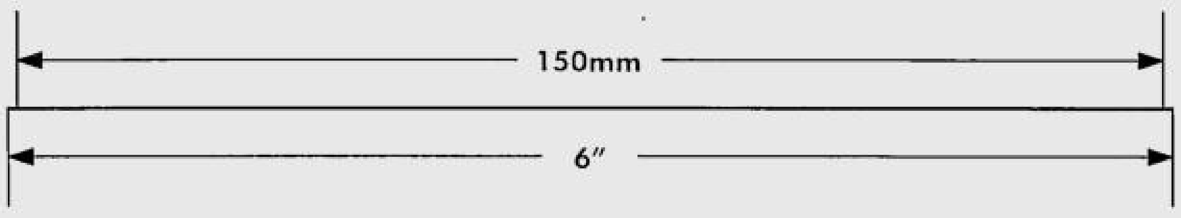

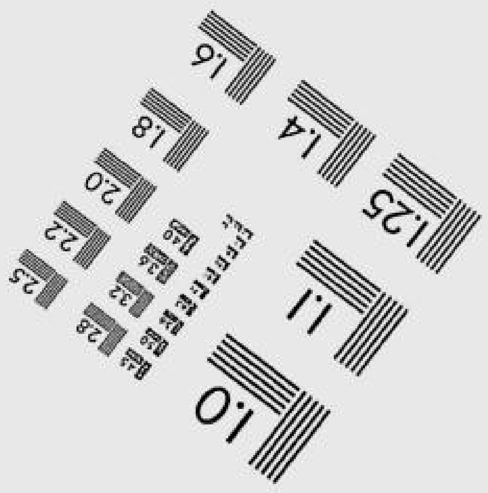
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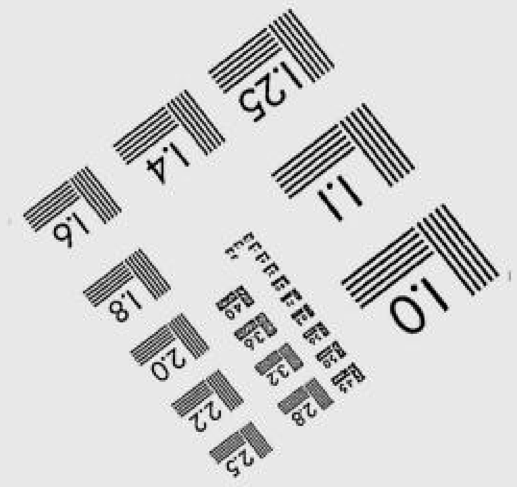
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